Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-022
Thursday
4 February 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-022 4 February 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

ICO Leader Stresses Implementing Resolution 799 *[Riyadh Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Delegates Demand Implementation of Resolution 799 *[AL-SHA'B 3 Feb]* 1
Negotiators Reject Israeli 'Offer' on Deportees *[AL-FAJR 3 Feb]* 1
Talks With PLO Called 'Road' Leading to Peace *[AL-USBU' AL-JADID 31 Jan]* 1
Abu-Zayyad on Deportations, Peace Process *[Tel Aviv TV]* 2
'Arafat Adviser on Deportees, Ya'el Dayan Visit *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Feb]* 2
Arabs Should Meet U.S. 'Halfway' About Deportees *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Feb]* 3
Deportees Decision Called 'U.S.-Israeli Trickery' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Feb]* 4
Hamas: 'Terrorist' Label by U.S. 'Hostile Action' *[AL-RA'Y 4 Feb]* 4
PLO Group To Form Party in Occupied Territory *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Feb]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Kafi Reshuffles Cabinet; Malek New Foreign Minister *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Iraqi Vice President Holds News Conference *[Baghdad Radio]* 6
Government Spokesman on Press Issues, Sahara Problem *[Algiers TV]* 7
Spokesman on Implementation of Resolution 799 *[APS]* 7

Egypt

Musa Says Position on Return of Deportees 'Firm' *[MENA]* 8
Foreign Minister Says Peace Train on Move *[London AL-WASAT 1-7 Feb]* 8
Mubarak Discusses Issues With Professors, Students *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Appointment of 'Jewish Leader' at U.S. NSC Viewed *[AL-WAFD 1 Feb]* 10
Housing Minister Reveals Plans To Develop Hala'ib *[MENA]* 10
Austrian National Council President Ends Visit *[MENA]* 11
Interior Minister on Efforts To Combat Terrorists *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 30 Jan]* 11
Extremist Training Camp in Sudan Alleged *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 1 Feb]* 11
Fundamentalist Suspects Arrested Outside Cairo *[AFP]* 11

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Upcoming Papal Visit *[SUNA]* 12
Saudi Paper's Office Closed; Correspondent Detained *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Feb]* .. 12
Chadian Official Arrives With Letter for al-Bashir *[SUNA]* 13
Education Minister Leaves for Tehran 31 Jan *[SUNA]* 13
Rioter Killed in Price Protest 3 Feb *[AFP]* 13
Nasir Faction Condemned for Intercepting Relief Barges *[SUNA]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Council Urges Return of Palestinian Deportees *[WAKH]* 14

Oman

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit *[KUNA]* 14
Confers With Sultan *[Muscat Radio]* 14

Qatar

Yemeni Minister of State on Visit to Doha 14
Confers With Amir *[WAKH]* 14
Comments on Elections *[WAKH]* 14
Leaves Doha *[WAKH]* 14

Saudi Arabia

King, Pakistan's Sharif Urge End to Afghan Fighting *[Islamabad Radio]* 15
Sharif Leaves After Visit *[SPA]* 15

United Arab Emirates

Talks Held With PRC Official on Gulf Security *[WAKH]* 15
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Leaves After Talks *[KUNA]* 15
Federal National Council Members Appointed *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 16

IRAQ

Continuing Visit of PLO's 'Arafat Reported 18
Rejects Rabin Offer *[AFP]* 18
Meets With Saddam *[Algiers VOP]* 18
Comments on Dialogue With U.S. *[INA]* 19
Southern Areas Reportedly Under 'Fierce Attack' *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 19
Iran Reports Curfews in Al Basrah, Al 'Amarah *[Tehran Radio]* 19
U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN *[INA]* 19
Arab League Informed of Airspace Violations *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Defense Minister Visits Forces; Briefed on Morale *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Paper Says Iraq Rejects Domination, Wants Freedom *[INA]* 20
SAIRI Statement Commemorates Uprising Anniversary *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 21
Reconstruction in Telecommunications Sector Reported *[INA]* 22
Departments Engaged in Producing Local Products *[INA]* 22

ISRAEL

Opposition Rejects Compromise on Deportees *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Names of 100 Returnees To Be Released by Weekend *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Military Court Refuses To Release Detained American *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Fifty Palestinians Arrested in Hamas Interrogation *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Foreign Ministry Previews Peres U.S. Visit *[DAVAR 4 Feb]* 24
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Compromise *[Tel Aviv TV]* 25
Rabin Defends Decision on Deportation, Compromise *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Palestinians Seek Assurances on Deportation Policy *['AL HAMISHMAR 3 Feb]* 27
Peres Says Individual Deportee Cases To Be Reviewed *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 2 Feb]* 27
Press Supports Package Deal on Deportees *[DAVAR 3 Feb, etc]* 28
Paper Views Public 'Disenchantment' With Rabin *[HADASHOT 4 Feb]* 30
Officials 'Angry' With France, 'Not Anxious' About UN *[DAVAR 4 Feb]* 30
Documents Detail Hamas Medical Apparatus in Territories *[Jerusaleum TV]* 31

JORDAN

U.S. Claim Israel 'in Harmony' With 799 Refuted *[AL-RA'Y 4 Feb]* 32
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Amman From Baghdad *[Amman Radio]* 32
King Visits General Command, Discusses Military *[Amman Radio]* 32
Creditors Pledge Aid To Ease Balance of Payments *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Jan]* 32
JSDP Eleventh Political Party Legalized *[JORDAN TIMES 31 Jan]* 33

LEBANON

President Says All Deportees Must Return *[RFL]* 34
Buwayz Returns From Damascus, Comments on Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Minister Says Israeli Decision Changes Nothing *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Deportee Spokesman Says Clinton More Biased Than Bush *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Maronite Bishops Support Stand on Deportees *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Prime Minister on Criticism of Government *[RFL]* 35
Army Acts in Tyre After PLO-UNRWA Disagreement *[Voice of the People]* 35
Sa'adah Accuses Ja'ja' of Plotting Against Party *[VOL]* 35

SYRIA

Lebanon's Buwayz Holds Talks With al-Shar', Leaves *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Commentary Stresses UN Resolutions Indivisible *[Damascus Radio]* 36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Arabs Reportedly Arrested for Murder of UN Workers *[AFP]* 37
Indian Diplomat Killed in Kabul Missile Attack *[Tehran TV]* 37
Defense Ministry Source on Air, Artillery Attacks *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Spokesman Views Fighting, Jalalabad Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Clandestine Says Mas'ud Seeking Cease-Fire *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 38
Hekmatyar Claims Coalition Failed To Achieve Goals *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 38

Bangladesh

Scores Injured as Opposition Disputes Poll Results *[AFP]* 39
BNP Leads *[Dhaka Radio]* 39
Dhaka Seat Decided *[Dhaka Radio]* 39
Paper Views Implications of Clinton's Inauguration *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 22 Jan]* 39

India

Embassy in Kabul To Close 'Temporarily' *[Delhi Radio* 40
Rao Campaigns for Upcoming Assembly Elections 40
Rejects Government Destabilization *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Rules Out Mid-Term Polls *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Emphasizes Need for Stability *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Minister Quits Committee Probing Mosque Arson *[AFP]* 41
Andhra Pradesh Lawmakers Resign Over Abductions *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Paper Analyzes Cabinet Reshuffle, Rao Weaknesses *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 20 Jan]* 42
Soldiers Killed, Arms Seized in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 43
Arms Smuggling Effort by Pakistan Foiled *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Paper on Infighting Between Kashmir Militant Groups *[DINAMALAR 20 Jan]* 43
Commentary Examines UK Trade After Major Visit *[Delhi International]* 44

Iran

Iranian, Iraqi Officials Meet for Talks *[IRNA]* 44
U.S.-Israeli Relations, Deportee Issue Examined *[Tehran Radio]* 45

Daily Accuses Afghan Groups of 'National Suicide' *[IRNA]* 45
Afghan Party Leader Sends Condolences to Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Velayati Comments on U.S. Policies on Iran, Iraq *[RESALAT 27 Jan]* 46
OIC Urged To Act on Bosnia Through UNSC *[IRNA]* 46
Nateq-Nuri Addresses Officials on Anniversary *[IRNA]* 46
Navy Head on Tasks Ahead, Equipment Procurement *[Tehran Radio]* 47
President Urges More Attention To Cultural Issues *[IRNA]* 47
'Leniency' on Egypt Policy Called 'Political Folly' *[KEYHAN 18 Jan]* 47
Egypt Rejects Iranian Participation in Book Fair *[IRNA]* 48
Petroleum Minister Views Petrochemical Complex *[RESALAT 19 Dec]* 48
Minister Reports Steel Production, Mining Figures *[Tehran TV]* 49
Cooperatives Minister Views State Assistance *[Tehran Radio]* 49
• Government Strengthens Border Positions *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Jan]* 49
• Rafsanjani Team Posture More Aggressive *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 50
• Official on Resumption of Relations With Egypt *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 50
• Japan Agrees in Principle To Providing Loan *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 51
• Kuwaitis Rush to Tehran To Buy Dollars *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 51
• Wave of Criticism Against President's Policy *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 52
• Ahmad Khomeyni Possible Presidency Rumored *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 53
• Paper on RESALAT Report on U.S. Forces *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 53
• Official on Clandestine Inspection of Offices *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 53
• 'Adeli on Distinction Between Economy, Ideology *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 54
• Regime Spending Earned Currency in Advance *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 55
• Official on Addicts, Cultural Invasion *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 55
• Population Explosion Threatening Country *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 55
• Air Force Helicopter Crashes in Street *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 56
• Nude Picture Forces Shutdown of Paper *[London KEYHAN 21 Jan]* 56

Pakistan

House Adopts Kashmir Resolution, Hears Tank Plan *[Islamabad International]* 56
Nuclear Scientist Qadeer Khan Interviewed *[NAWA-I-WAQT 26 Jan]* 57
Daily Views India's Procurement of Rocket Engines *[THE NATION 3 Jan]* 59

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Says Outside Forces Fanning Ethnic Unrest *[AFP]* 60
LTTE Boatyard, Small Flotilla Destroyed *[AFP]* 60

Islamic Affairs

ICO Leader Stresses Implementing Resolution 799

LD0302211393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) has stressed that the only solution to the issue of the Palestinian deportees lies in the full implementation of [UN Security Council] Resolution 799, which demands the immediate and safe return of all Palestinian deportees, to ensure the continuation of the Middle East peace process.

In a statement released today, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Gabid urged the Security Council to make efforts as soon as possible to adopt all the measures required on the basis of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, to compel Israel to implement Resolution 799 and submit to the will of the international community by returning all the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Al-Gabid reaffirmed all the member countries' active support for the Palestinian people's struggle and their blessed intifadah. He expressed his solidarity with the deportees and proudly saluted their courage and determination despite the difficult and inhuman conditions they have been put in due to Israel's refusal to abide by the Security Council resolutions.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegates Demand Implementation of Resolution 799

TA0302165393 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] The occupied territories, QUDS PRESS—The Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories have almost unanimously rejected the Israeli proposal to divide the deportee problem by returning 100 deportees and reducing the deportation time for others. The Palestinians considered this an attempt to save the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration from the dilemma of resorting to the UN Security Council.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, told QUDS PRESS that "the issue is not that of solving Rabin's problem but solving the deportee problem". 'Urayqat described the Israeli proposal as "an attempt to circumvent UN Security Council Resolution 799 and delay the Security Council's discussion of the issue." In a reference to the number of deportees, 'Urayqat added that Rabin committed 413 mistakes and, therefore, he has to rectify all these mistakes and return the deportees in one batch. 'Urayqat, who is one of the negotiating delegation members closest to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, noted that "the Security Council resolution is clear. It does not call for the repatriation of one-third or one-fourth of the deportees in order to extricate Rabin from his predicament. It also does not call for exempting the United States from the need to apply Security Council resolutions on Israel even if this requires imposing sanctions." [passage omitted]

Attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan, chairman of the Gaza Strip Bar Association, said that "the Israeli decision has no value. It is only a deal." He considered the decision "a circumvention of international legitimacy and the Security Council."

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, supported this view and said that "the decision is rejected. There is no alternative to implementing Resolution 799 in its entirety." Al-Agha described the Israeli decision as "illegitimate." [passage omitted]

Negotiators Reject Israeli 'Offer' on Deportees

TA0302155993 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jerusalem—Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks expressed their rejection of the Israeli offer to return 100 of the deportees to their homes and reduce the deportation time of the others by half.

During a meeting held yesterday afternoon with the general consuls of Western countries in Jerusalem, the delegation members called for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. They said that the Israeli offer seeks to circumvent Resolution 799 and prevent the Security Council from adopting measures against Israel for its refusal to implement the resolution.

The Palestinians stressed during the meeting, which was devoted to briefing the consuls about the Palestinian position regarding the Israeli proposal, that implementation of the Security Council resolution and repatriation of all the deportees will ensure the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Ghassan al-Khatib, and Zahirah Kamal attended the meeting from the Palestinian side. The consuls of the United States, France, Britain, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Greece, and Turkey were present at the meeting also.

Talks With PLO Called 'Road' Leading to Peace

TA0302155893 Jerusalem AL-USBU' AL-JADID in Arabic 31 Jan 93 p 2

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] According to Yitzhaq Rabin, the collective deportation campaign carried out by him under the slogan of "combating terrorism," sought to curb violence in the occupied territories and prepare suitable conditions for the establishment of peace! [passage omitted]

With the unjust deportation decision, the chances of success for the peace process have dwindled and it is now exposed to utter failure. Everyone awaited the Israeli High Court's ruling in the belief that Rabin was

searching for a way out. It became apparent to all, however, that the Israeli Court could not be a high court of justice but a court of justice in the Israeli pattern. It ratified what the Israeli Government wanted and in a more precise manner than the Israeli prime minister. The problem did not end there. Violence intensified. Furthermore, the Israeli Court's ruling was perhaps the last nail in the coffin of the peace process.

Will Rabin understand that deporting hundreds, or even thousands, will not be the solution that can provide security and stability for Israel? And can Rabin comprehend that he cannot have all the winning cards in the game, that he cannot decide by himself alone the evolution of events in the region, and that he cannot impose terms of surrender on the Arab and Palestinian side?

The real alternative to all the repressive measures is only the movement along the path of a just peace, which provides security and stability for all. This path must be taken through the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Knesset Member Ya'el Dayan took this road. We hope that she will be followed by members of the Israeli Cabinet, the last being Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This is the road that can lead to peace.

Abu-Zayyad on Deportations, Peace Process

TA0202193893 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a member of the Palestinian advisory committee to the peace talks, by Dan Shilon on the "New Evening" program—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

[Abu-Zayyad] Good evening.

[Shilon] How would you propose that we extricate ourselves from the situation?

[Abu-Zayyad] First of all, let me explain that for us this is a matter of principle. The principle is that the deportations cannot be justified. This is not about any one man, organization, or political philosophy, but about the very concept of deportation as such. In our view, deportations constitute an illegal act which contravenes the Geneva Convention and international law. We cannot justify deportations, and that is why we are opposed to and will continue to fight against this decision with all the political and diplomatic means at our disposal, in order to prevent this from becoming an acceptable method both in Israel and the international community.

[Shilon] Do you deny a country's right to protect its citizens from killers who seek to indiscriminately murder women, children, and other innocent people?

[Abu-Zayyad] International law does not permit an occupying power to dispossess and deport people from among the occupied population. As someone living under the shadow of occupation, I defend my rights as a resident of occupied territory not to be dispossessed or deported. From here it is clear that....

[Shilon, interrupting] Which rights are you defending? Are you defending your right to murder people?

[Abu-Zayyad] I am standing up for my right to live on my land, and the Military Government has to promise that it will abide by the Geneva Convention and refrain from deporting or dispossessing me. I am not threatening anybody. I am not justifying anybody's murder. On the contrary, we are opposed to murder and violence. Therefore, the first principle I sought to clarify was that we are opposed to the deportation decision because it is illegal and stands in contravention to the Geneva Convention and international law. It is simply unacceptable. The second fact and principle we wish to clarify is that there was a Security Council decision which should be implemented in full without any compromises. If we accept the idea that one can reach a compromise regarding Security Council Resolution 799 this means that in the future we may have to compromise on Resolution 242 and 338. Why did we start a peace process on the basis of Resolution 242 if we then set a precedent according to which this resolution is malleable and up for compromise?

[Shilon] What then will happen to the peace process in your opinion?

[Abu-Zayyad] Listen, we are very interested in the continuation of the peace process. We believe that this is a historic opportunity for both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, as well as all peoples in the region to begin moving along the path of political negotiations in order to eventually reach a political solution. We are very interested in seeing this process continue; however, we see the deportation decision as posing the main obstacle to this process. This obstacle must be removed in a way that will not supply ammunition to the opponents of the peace process.

[Shilon] Thank you for coming to our studio, Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

'Arafat Adviser on Deportees, Ya'el Dayan Visit

PM0202153193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Sha'th: We Were Surprised by Number of Israelis Wishing To Visit PLO"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has announced that President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo this week to meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss recent developments in the deportees issue and their effect on the peace process.

Upon his arrival yesterday morning from a tour that had taken him to Switzerland, Belgium, and Tunisia, Sha'th

said that the Palestinian leadership is currently considering calling on Arab foreign ministers to convene an emergency meeting to discuss developments in the deportation issue. It has been decided that the meeting should be held after the Security Council session to discuss the question of adopting a resolution to compel Israel to return the deportees.

Dr. Sha'th urged the Security Council to adopt a decisive resolution in this connection, especially after the recommendation sent to the Council by Dr. Butrus-Ghali, which is an advanced step from him in consolidating international legitimacy, rejecting double standards, and maintaining a constant watch on arbitrary Israeli measures.

On the visit to Tunis by Dayan's daughter and her meeting with Palestinian leaders, Dr. Sha'th says that Ya'el Dayan's visit holds many meanings, in that she is a Labor Knesset member and a representative in the Security and Foreign Relations Committee, which is considered the most important committee in the Knesset. I met with Ya'el and so did Faysal al-Husayni and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. At the meeting she emphasized the rejection of the deportations and her insistence on the deportees' return and the establishment of a stable Palestinian state that makes peace with Israel as a basis for a just solution.

Ya'el, Dr. Sha'th added, told us that she was certain of 'Arafat's sincerity in the peace process and of her confidence that he is capable of leading the Palestinian people toward a just peace. She also told us that if her father, Moshe Dayan, had been alive, he would have visited Yasir 'Arafat before her, because anyone who wants to establish peace with his enemies must come to the Palestinian people's representative.

On the postponement of the meetings which were supposed to be held between Palestinian and Israeli officials, he said: We have postponed several meetings until the deportees' return, as a meeting scheduled for 28 January in Brussels and another 30 January in Cairo have been postponed. And the third meeting, which was supposed to be held in Harvard today, Monday, will also be postponed. He also said that the PLO was surprised by the large number of Israelis wishing to visit Tunis and meet with 'Arafat. There is a long list of them, and President 'Arafat will meet with them gradually, starting with the figures opposed to the deportation decision.

This wish means that there is a large number of Israelis who believe that there can be no peace except through dialogue with the PLO and that there can be no peace except by achieving a just solution for the Palestinian people.

Arabs Should Meet U.S. 'Halfway' About Deportees

PM0302161193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 93 p 17

[George Sam'an article: "The Deportees Issue"]

[Text] It is no exaggeration to say that the new U.S. Administration, which is preparing to make a comprehensive review of U.S. foreign policy, makes the issue of the Palestinian deportees a top priority just like the war in Bosnia, the future of Iraq, and Somalia, in addition to the Middle East peace process. It even closely links the deportees issue to the four other issues and to the effective role the United Nations now plays in tackling world crises.

That link puts the United States in an unavoidable position making it difficult if not impossible for it to use its veto to block the imposition of sanctions against Israel to force it to repatriate the deportees. That does not mean that it wants the deportees issue to go back to the Security Council in order to punish Yitzhaq Rabin's government.

The United States knows very well that using its veto—if the case goes back to the Security Council, which seems unlikely in the near future— would destroy what is left of its credibility and, beyond that, jeopardize its plans for Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and other areas where it wishes to intervene or to play a greater part in shaping the future and policies. How would the United States, which is getting ready to intervene militarily to stop the war in Yugoslavia and prevent it from spreading to all the Balkans, justify such intervention without the approval of or a resolution from the Security Council? How would it be able to continue its confrontation with Iraq and its armed presence in Somalia without a UN resolution giving legitimacy to the roles it plays there?

In view of all that, is it conceivable that the United States would prevent the Security Council from exercising its rights against a state that refuses to comply with its resolutions, particularly the one calling on Rabin's government to take the deportees back, which was supported by President Bush's administration? Is it conceivable that President Clinton's administration would seek international legitimacy for intervention in Bosnia, for instance, and then prevent the application of such legitimacy against Israel?

All these factors mean that a U.S. veto would impede all U.S. foreign plans. That is why the Clinton administration is putting pressure on Israel to find a way out to spare it such a move, which would be as difficult as allowing sanctions against Israel. Therefore, inasmuch as it is a dilemma for Washington, the deportees issue is also a fundamental test for Rabin's government and its policy toward the new administration.

In that test Rabin, whatever his value and standing at the White House, cannot opt for confrontation with it at the beginning of its four-year term. He seems to have chosen a solution that would neither discredit him and be self-defeating for him nor embarrass the United States in the eyes of the world and the Arabs.

If the Arabs and the Palestinians have so far managed to play their part well in this crisis, having given the Clinton administration some time out of a desire not to clash with it

at the outset of its term, they should also meet that administration halfway, otherwise the ball will be back in their court at a time when such states as Britain, and Europe generally, are trying to help Washington out of its dilemma and when the world still feels that it needs U.S. military and other assistance in various places.

Deportees Decision Called 'U.S.-Israeli Trickery'

PM0402111793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 10

[Bilal al-Hasan article: "The Solution That Tricks Its Way Around International Legitimacy"]

[Text] Israel's tricky way around the UN Security Council resolution makes it possible to boycott the bilateral negotiations until the problem of the deportees is comprehensively solved.

The solution secretly agreed between the U.S. Administration and Israel as a way out of the deportees crisis emerged when the Israeli Government decided to repatriate 100 deportees and reduce the deportation period for the rest.

The solution is, in essence, a tricky way around Security Council Resolution 799, which ordered the repatriation of all the deportees without delay. The United States could now say that the resolution is being implemented, and Israel could say that the solution came through an Israeli decision in accordance with Israeli laws and without compliance with the Security Council resolutions. Regarding the other 300 deportees, the world's conscience can tolerate their tragedy; 300 deportees are acceptable to the sensitive and tolerant world conscience, but not 415 deportees!

Tomorrow, or perhaps the day after, we will read statements or analyses blaming the deportees for complaining about international injustice or for failing to appreciate Rabin's difficult position or the skill with which a solution was found through secret negotiations between the White House and the Tel Aviv government.

Tomorrow, or perhaps the day after, we will hear that invitations have been sent to the Palestinians to attend the new round of bilateral negotiations now that the obstacle known as the deportees issue has been eliminated.

Because the issue has not been resolved yet and because the deportees themselves have rejected the Israeli decision and insist on the immediate return of all the deportees, the Palestinian negotiators have every right to suspend their participation in the negotiations until the problem is comprehensively solved, thus exerting pressure in favor of the deportees, taking a political stand against the Israeli Government's decision and the U.S.-Israeli trickery, and insisting that the deportation decision was wrong and was in contravention of the Geneva conventions, which Israel does not acknowledge and which it wants to avoid and bypass to serve other intentions related to the final aims of the negotiations.

Hamas: 'Terrorist' Label by U.S. 'Hostile Action'

JN0402124593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 15

[Text] Amman—The office of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, yesterday issued a statement on the U.S. Administration's recent stand toward Hamas.

The statement says: The U.S. State Department has announced that it will create a special chapter on Hamas in its annual report on terrorism, justifying this by the nature of Hamas' activity. This sudden step by Washington clearly indicates that U.S. foreign policy still lacks objectivity and balance and is based on double standards and on beliefs that have nothing to do with the slogans of human rights and democracy—slogans serving as a cover for U.S. objectives and interests as well as U.S. military and political interference in the affairs of various world states.

The administration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton, which has been in power for no more than two weeks, has yielded to the pressures of the Zionist lobby in the United States. This lobby is pursuing a large-scale political and security disinformation campaign aimed at distorting Hamas' objectives and principles and blemishing the image of the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic communities in the United States—communities that support the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to liberation, freedom, and dignity.

We in Hamas are following the activities of the Zionist lobby in the United States. This lobby is currently making painstaking efforts to convince those sympathizing with it in the Clinton administration and in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to take hostile steps against Americans of Palestinian and Arab origin; agitate against the establishments, interests, and bodies that serve the Arab and Islamic communities in the United States; and embark on a large-scale distortion campaign in the U.S. media against our movement and its legitimate struggle. Zionist, racist, and other writers, who are linked to Israeli interests and are closely associated with the Zionist lobby, will participate in such a campaign.

Hamas considers itself a national liberation movement struggling to liberate its land and people from occupation. This struggle was approved by all international charters, human norms, and heavenly laws. Hamas has not carried out any activity against U.S. or Western interests anywhere in the world. Such activity will not be part of Hamas' objectives at any time. Hamas defined its objectives in its political and intellectual literature as those of confronting occupation and its military forces, bodies, and establishments that serve the occupation of the Palestinian territories, and this is legitimate.

We in Hamas emphasize that any U.S. step to brand our movement as a terrorist organization will be regarded as an irresponsible, hostile action. This simply means that the United States views the Palestinian people's intifadah against occupation as terrorist. Such an action reflects an implicit support for the Zionist occupation of the entire

Palestinian soil, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also reveals that Washington has expanded its political, security, and military protection of the Zionist entity, as was evident in the deal Washington struck with the terrorist Rabin and its suspicious pressures to abort any punitive Security Council measures against the Zionist crime of deporting the sons of our people.

We hope that President Clinton's administration will review its stands and reconsider its calculations. We also hope this administration will not be lured by the Zionist deception and forgery into recklessly adopting provocative measures against our people, their militant forces, and Islamic feelings everywhere.

PLO Group To Form Party in Occupied Territory

PM0302170793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "New Party in Occupied Territory"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A group which had split from one of the main Palestinian factions of the PLO is now making final preparations to form an open political party in the occupied Arab territory. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from travelers coming from the occupied territory that the constituent meeting of the party will be held 20-24 February in Jerusalem, although the party's headquarters will be in Ramallah. It has also been learned that the party will be called the Palestinian Democratic Union (Fida').

It should be noted that no political party has been formed in the occupied territory since the Israeli military occupation in 1967. According to reports from the occupied territory, the party's leaders will try to turn it into an instrument for running the Palestinian people's political and social affairs. Its program speaks of the creation of various departments covering all walks of life, such as an education department, social affairs department, and public freedoms and human rights department.

Algeria

Kafi Reshuffles Cabinet; Malek New Foreign Minister

LD0302164693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi today introduced a partial cabinet reshuffle, appointing Higher State Council member Redha Malek as foreign minister. On the other hand, and at the proposal of the prime minister, the chairman of the Higher State Council appointed Belkacem Benlarbi as minister of industries and mines, Tahar Hamdi as minister of labor and social affairs, Mohamed Arezki Isli as minister of transport, and Mustapha Mekraoui as minister-delegate of economy in charge of trade.

Iraqi Vice President Holds News Conference

LD0302224793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and vice president, has stressed that dialogue is the ideal way to solve the pending problems in the Arab and international arenas.

In a news conference he held here today, attended by correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies and representatives of the Algerian press in addition to the INA correspondent, Mr. Ramadan said that Iraq is prepared to open a new page and normalize relations with everybody. This is a normal thing. However, this does not mean a reassessment of this or that country or this or that official. That should be left to history.

He noted that Iraq put forward its unilateral cease-fire initiative because it felt it was appropriate to offer the new U.S. Administration a full opportunity without finding itself facing an imposed inheritance and a set course which it has to follow, especially in view of the fact that everyone is aware of the large role played by the Zionist lobby in influencing American policy in a direction hostile to Iraq and to the Arab nation. Ramadan stressed that the initiative was not a temporary tactic and that Iraq was serious in the search for a solution to all problems through direct dialogue and not by imposing or issuing orders.

To demonstrate our seriousness, he said, we did not respond to three provocative attempts by U.S. aircraft and we did not respond to these provocations in kind but we dealt with them in a rational way to the extent that the other side admitted the mistake and was unable to prove anything against us.

He stressed that the Iraqis will not hesitate to resort to confrontation and combat if it is the only way to ensure sovereignty and dignity, avert surrender, and reject foreign hegemony. The Iraqi people reject any form of humiliation or colonialist hegemony, he said.

He noted that Iraq will give this initiative every possible chance of success if there is a minimum level of readiness and desire on the part of the other side to exploit this historic opportunity. However, Iraq, in the meantime, has not organized its programs and plans of preparedness on the assumption of the success of this step.

All our programs, preparations, and daily action, he added, are geared toward stimulating and developing the situation as if things will remain as they are, or even get worse, despite our conviction that the initiative will render service to all parties, not only Iraq, and that it will help stability and security in the world.

Ramadan added that while we prepare our people to fight in defense of honor and sovereignty, we lead our people in the process of construction in which we have made long strides at a magnificent and exemplary level cherished by brothers and friends. We have to work politically at a level close to the level of the preparations for fighting and for construction so that we miss no opportunity to save every drop of Iraqi blood.

Regarding the new U.S. Administration and how to deal with it, Ramadan said the leadership in Iraq cannot be definite and say that the new U.S. Administration is totally different from the Bush administration, and it cannot say that the new administration will deal with Iraq and the region in a new manner, nor do they have, so far, any indication of that. However, the new administration is not burdened by any setbacks or personal matters that might have built up during the past era in the relations between the two countries.

Concerning Iraq's implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, the vice president noted that Iraq has implemented every request regarding Resolution 687 and the identification of the special weapons, and has destroyed whatever it was asked to destroy. And although a lot of what was destroyed was unfair and unjust, it was Iraq's desire to overcome the ordeal and to provide a reason to lift the blockade.

He urged the United Nations to balance between the commitments implemented by Iraq and the size of the boycott imposed on the Iraqi people, noting that Iraq should not have to continue to implement resolutions without getting anything in return. He said that what was taking place in the region was unjust and tyrannical. While they were calling for the destruction of everything in Iraq, they were leaving Israel to build and reap everything. Was there going to be justice and objectivity? What kind of legitimacy was it that took away from the Arab even the knife by which he defended himself, while it left the Zionist entity the freedom to possess the atomic bomb and every kind of weapon of mass destruction.

The vice president questioned the logic of the international legitimacy that has started to appoint rulers in countries and worked for the safeguarding of the interests of the superpowers at the expense of the rights of small peoples and countries.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the vice president stressed that Iraq had been, was still, and will remain a natural ally of the Palestinian revolution.

Ramadan expressed his deep satisfaction with the results of his visit to Algeria and the common understanding achieved about the most important and prominent issues discussed with Algerian officials. He said: We view Algeria as one of the main pillars in the Arab arena and among the countries that remained outside the circle of the Hafr al-Batin countries. [town in Saudi Arabia]

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that he had put before the Algerian leadership Iraq's point of view, its seriousness in submitting the Iraqi initiative, and its desire that Algeria should make the other side aware of Iraq's desire and sincere seriousness in dealing with that initiative.

Government Spokesman on Press Issues, Sahara Problem

LD0302222593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] In accordance with the custom recently established, Mr. Messaoud Ait Chaalal, minister adviser and government spokesman, held a news conference today during which he gave some details about the recent meeting of the Government Council, which examined problems facing the public sector press. Here is a report by Ahmed Brahim:

[Brahim] At the beginning of his news conference Mr. Messaoud Ait Chaalal asserted that the public sector press is very important, and noted that it has been facing a number of problems and difficulties. It is, therefore, self-evident that it should be financially supported by the government, while it should also, therefore, respect the editorial line drawn up for it, in order to keep in harmony with the government's policy and program, with the national interest, and with the main orientations of the country's policies. This does not, however, mean that journalists working for the public sector are under restrictions; they are free to criticize anything that is not in line with the country's policies, he added.

Mr. Messaoud Ait Chaalal also pointed out that the public sector press must be reorganized; it should support itself financially so as not to be a burden on the state's budget and to gain more credibility for its stories. [passage omitted]

Government aid will not be confined to the public sector, he added; statistics show that the private sector has benefited more from government support, he confirmed. The government recently allocated 15 billion centimes to the public sector, whereas the private sector benefited by about 20 billion centimes in addition to all the facilities given to the private press, i.e. headquarters premises, tax exemption, and subsidies for printing, publishing, and advertising. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, an uproar has been fomented by a number of private papers, following the meeting of the government council. They claim that the government favors the public sector over the private, and is further muzzling private papers. This is not true, he asserted, and a number of those papers have even distorted the government's statement on the matter.

[Begin Chaalal recording] I have noticed in some papers that even the government's statement was distorted. There was real falsification of the text. We said: the improvement of benefits given to the whole of the national press by the aid and support structures in place. However, I can see in the editorial of a paper which I am about to read: the improvement of the benefits given to the whole of the public press by the aid and support structures in place.

Of course, national is one thing and public is another. When we talk about the national press, we mean all the Algerian press, unless the latter is not considered by them as national. This is another matter and it is their right to think so. However, we consider all the press as national; true, it could be private but still be a national one. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Brahim] The journalists' questions during the news conference were about a number of clarifications which Mr. Ait Chaalal addressed. A question was also raised about Algeria's position regarding the recent UN moves on the problem of Western Sahara.

[Begin Chaalal recording] Those were the three hypotheses which were proposed by the UN secretary general. In outline, they are as follows: First, continue with the efforts under way in order to find an agreement between the two parties; second, immediately organize the referendum, using the criteria drawn up by Mr. Perez de Cuellar; third, cancel everything, including the UN peace plan and look for a fresh solution. These were the three logical scenarios proposed by the UN secretary general.

As far as we are concerned, and I would like to be very clear here, we are for the first scenario, i.e. we believe that every effort should be exerted in order to advance the solution which is based upon the agreement of the two parties, as nothing can be done without the agreement of the two parties. For this very reason we would like the secretary general to continue with his efforts in order to come up with an agreement which will be, of course, acceptable to the two parties, before holding and organizing the referendum in Western Sahara. [end recording]

Spokesman on Implementation of Resolution 799

LD0402114393 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, Feb 4 (APS)—"Algeria follows with great concern the developments of the question of the Palestinian displaced persons who suffer for more than 50 days, from this situation and the difficult and inhuman living conditions that result from it," the spokesman of

the Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued Wednesday. In spite of the unanimity expressed by the international community through Resolution 799 of the UN Security Council which requests Israel to authorize the return of the displaced Palestinians to their homes, the Israeli authorities of occupation persist in their position of challenge vis-a-vis the consensus of the states by filibustering and maneuvres the last of which was the authorization of a return of only part of the displaced persons, the statement added. Algeria, the statement went on, considers that the way out of this impasse in which Israel has put the peace process, lies in the complete implementation of Resolution 799 which authorizes the return of displaced persons while assuring them guaranties of protection. Otherwise, the statement concluded, Algeria sees no use in the continuation of bilateral negotiation on the Middle-East.

Egypt

Musa Says Position on Return of Deportees 'Firm'

NC0302150393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's position on the Palestinian deportees issue is firm. Egypt very clearly calls for the return of all the deportees. No Palestinians should remain abroad because it is their legitimate right under international law to return.

In a statement today, Musa said Egypt is trying to ensure the return of all the deportees to the occupied territories and is continuing its efforts in this direction. He said the efforts will remain focused on the return of all the deportees.

Musa said: As I said yesterday, the decision to allow 100 deportees to return represents a starting point for the implementation of the Geneva Convention from the standpoint that the deportation process conflicts with and is against international law. The decision is a step in the right direction, even though it does not represent a full solution. Efforts will continue to ensure the return of all the deportees.

On the other hand, Musa said that the exact date of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States has not been set yet and that contacts are under way to fix a date for the visit. He added that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Cairo as part of a regional tour at the end of this month.

Musa also said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo in the next few days to discuss the deportees issue. He mentioned that intensive contacts are being held to set a date for the meeting of the multilateral talks committees, adding that no date has been set yet for the next round of bilateral talks.

Foreign Minister Says Peace Train on Move

PM0402104593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 1-7 Feb 93 pp 32-33

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Amr 'Abd-al-Sami' in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Sami'] How would you assess the situation in Iraq after recent developments and the confrontation between the alliance states and President Saddam Husayn?

[Musa] The situation is serious and delicate. We urge that all policies that are risky and provocative in nature be stopped. And Egypt repeats the demand that international legitimacy be adhered to with regard to Iraq. Egypt also rejects Iraq's partition and believes that it is necessary to respect its people and Iraqi territorial integrity and to protect its sovereignty and regional safety.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Egypt's calm reaction to Sudan's escalation of the disagreements with Egypt has encountered approval. But there is a prevailing belief that this escalation has closed the door to an understanding and is leading the dispute to an impasse. So how accurate do you think this belief is, and what are the Egyptian options with regard to the Sudanese position?

[Musa] The calmness characterizing the Egyptian reaction to the Sudanese escalation means that we view this dispute objectively and are anxious that it should not get out of proportion or have any adverse effects on the Sudanese people's interests and safety or on the eternal relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

We can also attribute this calmness to our astonishment when Sudan submitted its memorandum to the Security Council before the date set for the meeting of the joint committee entrusted with discussing all aspects of the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship. This step was tantamount to a measure preventing the committee from meeting on the date set. We still emphasize that we do not aim, intend, or accept that our relations with Sudan should continue as they stand at present, or that the current situation should continue for long. The door is open to dialogue. And our hearts and minds are open to fraternal Sudan, provided that this does not affect our sovereignty over our territory and stressing that Hala'ib is an integral part of Egypt's territory. Egypt's sovereignty over Hala'ib is not subject to examination or negotiation. This is said in the knowledge that Egypt expresses its full willingness to discuss all proposals submitted to continue or amend the administrative procedures applied in that area, in order to achieve the utmost benefit for the Sudanese brothers who live there or who frequent the area. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Sami'] What stage has been reached with regard to the Damascus declaration signed by the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria?

[Musa] Over two years have elapsed since the Damascus declaration was signed. And I have on several occasions

pointed to the importance of taking a step toward putting the declaration into effect, so that it will not be added to the huge number of documents concerning joint Arab action. Of course, the matter depends on the will of the signatory states and the extent of their awareness of the need for this declaration, in order to achieve security, progress, and solidarity among themselves in view of the international and regional conditions this region is experiencing and the threats which still surround its states.

['Abd-al-Sami'] What is the first and most notable problem between Egypt and Iran at present: Its interference in Egyptian internal affairs through support for extremism, or the threat that it presents to security in the Gulf region and hence Arab security?

[Musa] Iran is an Islamic state and a neighbor and could play a constructive role in the region. Its relations with us could produce positive results at various levels. We know that it has legitimate interests and that it is entitled to look after those interests. But the problem begins with Iran's visualization of a role of hegemony and domination in the region and the reflection of that visualization in terms of interference in internal affairs, the attempt to impose religious or political tutelage on important issues such as the Palestinian issue, and the endeavor to monopolize a method of resolving it under an Islamic mask. Thus it becomes clear to us that the problem with Iran is not on the scale portrayed by some. So if intentions are sincere and wills are focused on establishing relations on the foundations I mentioned, which are in line with what is generally accepted in contemporary international relations, it will be possible to achieve constructive and stable relations with Iran.

['Abd-al-Sami'] Based on Egypt's experience, which no other Arab side has in negotiating with Israel, how would you assess the level of progress in the previous rounds of negotiations?

[Musa] When we assess the level of progress in the previous rounds of negotiations, we should completely exclude from our calculations the period from the launch of the peace process to the Shamir government's departure. This is because Shamir announced openly that his aim in taking part in peace efforts with the other sides was nothing but to play for time and to perpetuate the fait accompli. But since Yitzhaq Rabin took over as prime minister—taking into account the significance of the Israeli people's toppling of the Likud regime, the parties participating in the present government coalition, the positive statements made by Israeli officials, and the documents exchanged among the negotiating parties—we can say that the peace train is moving, even though it has not yet reached any of the stations leading to the final goal. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Discusses Issues With Professors, Students

NC0302183793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Husni Mubarak's meeting with university professors and students in Hulwan on 3 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] President Mubarak explained the need for family planning, indicating that the issue of limiting the population explosion requires serious study. He noted that Egypt's population in 1982 was 44.5 million while in 1992 it reached 58 million people. This reflects the horrendous increase in the population. Our people must realize the importance of their role in family planning since the suffering in the future will create difficulties for both the family and the state. President Mubarak said that the state will not be able to fulfill its duty in meeting society's basic requirements in the fields of education, health, and other fields if the population continues to increase at a rate not commensurate with the state's revenues.

Mubarak referred to the importance of increasing the state's revenues, explaining that tourism had begun to yield revenues after huge investments were made in the tourism sector. He mentioned that tourism is suffering from the worldwide recession, which is also being felt in the United States and Europe. Egypt is part of the world tourism movement and there are efforts to rejuvenate the tourism industry, which is a main source of income. [passage omitted]

Mubarak explained the economic reform policy, indicating that it began as soon as he assumed office. [passage omitted] He said that there will be no new price increases, as some are trying to suggest. [passage omitted] He also noted that the world has appreciated the economic reform policy, which prompted the United States to write off its military loans to Egypt and a part of the civil loans.

Mubarak noted that when Egypt decided to support justice and stand on the side of Kuwait, it did not do so to write off its debts. Egypt's stand stemmed from its pan-Arab commitments and its adherence to principles. [passage omitted]

Concluding his talk about economic reform, President Mubarak noted that economic reform carries with it certain obligations. It represents a bitter medicine but we must drink it to be cured.

Afterward, Mubarak dwelled on Egypt's foreign policy, answering students' questions. On Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mubarak described the conflict between the Serbs, Bosnians, and Croatians. He said Egypt is playing its role within the framework of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. It spares no effort in supporting Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On Egypt's international relations, Mubarak noted that Egypt is passing through a most difficult phase. It is building good relations with the international community and is trying to achieve a balance between Egypt's interests and those of the international community. Therefore, after great efforts, Egypt has achieved good and strong relations with all the states of the world. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on Hala'ib, Mubarak explained that Egypt respects the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples and has never interfered in Sudan's internal affairs. What is happening now is Sudan is continuing its attempts to fabricate crises. Egypt has not and will not relinquish one inch of its soil.

Regarding terrorism and political violence, President Mubarak explained that all of us have a responsibility to confront all forms of terrorism and violence. He indicated that if the chance is given to the perpetrators of violence, they will destroy the present and future. [passage omitted]

On the Palestinian issue, Mubarak referred to Egypt's continuous efforts to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. On the Palestinian deportees issue, he indicated that Egypt is making efforts to resolve this issue and return the deportees to their homes.

On the peace talks, Mubarak indicated that the peace talks require time and coordination to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

On Saddam Husayn's motives in recent weeks, President Mubarak explained that Saddam Husayn and his regime do not understand international relations so they make miscalculations.

Appointment of 'Jewish Leader' at U.S. NSC Viewed

NC0302131793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 3

[From the "Opinion" column by Dr. Muhammad 'Asfur: "Arabs: Do Not Be Depressed"]

[Text] It is not true that the "new" U.S. policy under Clinton is another provocation of the Arabs. Ever since the United States imposed by force the resolution partitioning Palestine and recognized Israel, it has not hidden its total support and flagrant bias toward Israel in spite of the fact that some former administrations may have pretended to show some pity, mercy, or compassion for the Arabs. I see nothing new in Clinton's appointment of Jewish leader Martin Indyk as a Middle East expert at the U.S. National Security Council [NSC]. Indyk has been head of the Near East Policy Institute, a strong pro-Israeli pressure group, since its establishment in 1985. Indyk has turned the institute into a strong institution shaping the policy and thinking of the U.S. Government's Middle East policy. (Indyk also worked with the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, which is the strongest Israeli pressure group in Washington.)

The bitter truth, which must not be ignored, is that the anti-Arab and anti-Muslim U.S. policy is not altered by the arrival of a Jewish leader at a key post where serious U.S. foreign policy decisions are made. We must all realize that U.S. foreign policy is not governed by principles or ethics; it is governed on interests, pure and simple. These "interests" can be understood from the components of the U.S. national character, as shaped by the real ruling power. It is impossible for any U.S. president to deviate from the line drawn by the real ruling power that brought him to the White House.

Clinton has strongly criticized the (dominating bureaucracy and the monopolizing money), [as published] but he has frankly and explicitly said that he absolutely believes in free enterprise and free trade (which are imposed on the entire world!) as much as he believes in the U.S. pioneering role and its leadership of the world to protect democracy and safeguard human rights, the way the United States understands it as best serve its expansionist interests!

In light of this fact, you Arabs must learn that despair, like death, is one of the two reliefs. So, do not be depressed; your determined fate is known. Do we not know the fate of insects?!

Housing Minister Reveals Plans To Develop Hala'ib

NC0302153393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Red Sea, 3 Feb (MENA)—Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities, today ordered the start of a comprehensive development plan for an area in the Red Sea Governorate, including Hala'ib, Abu Ramad, and Shalatayn. The plan will generate jobs for the area's tribes of al-Bashshariyah and al-'Ababidah.

Minister al-Kafrawi today toured the area, accompanied by Red Sea Governor Major General Yusri al-Shamil. During the tour, the two tribes voiced their loyalty to their mother country, Egypt.

Speaking on the occasion, al-Kafrawi announced a plan to build docks for fishing boats as well as ice and refrigerator factories in Shalatayn and Abu Ramad. The minister promised to provide the inhabitants with fishing and motor boats and create training centers for fishermen and construction workers.

Al-Kafrawi placed the cornerstone for an administrative complex of the post, police, fire brigade, and other local government services. He also laid the cornerstone for 60 residential units in Abu Ramad.

Al-Kafrawi said that 500 new homes for bedouins will be built in Shalatayn, Abu Ramad, Hala'ib, Marsa 'Alam, Abu al-Hasan al-Shadhili, Barnis, and Marsa Humayrah.

The minister also disclosed plans to build new al-Azhar-run elementary schools as well as clinics and hospitals. He also revealed that work has begun for the

construction of 10 water desalination units with a capacity to purify 100 to 500 cubic meters a day, at a cost to the government of 27 million pounds [approximately $8 million]. [passage omitted]

Austrian National Council President Ends Visit

NC0402115893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Austrian National Council President Dr. Heinz Fischer left Cairo for Austria today following a five-day visit at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Efforts To Combat Terrorists

NC0402050093 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 30 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has revealed that the security authorities have foiled an attempt by terrorist elements, trained abroad, to infiltrate Egypt via the al-Sallum border point to implement sabotage operations against vital installations. The security authorities, he said, have succeeded in arresting all the terrorist elements, who made important confessions regarding the plan they intended to implement. The authorities are currently questioning the detainees.

Speaking at the intellectual gathering at the book fair yesterday, the interior minister said that the terrorist group belongs to the organization of the "returnees from Afghanistan" against which court verdicts were issued three months ago. Members of the third [as published] group had tried to enter Egypt via Sudan and the southern crossing points, but they failed. They therefore traveled to Libya and tried to enter Egypt via the al-Sallum crossing point, where they were discovered.

Musa affirmed that the investigators have evidence based on the confessions of the members of the terrorist group about the involvement of foreign parties in the incidents that took place in the country last year. He noted that the files on all the robberies of goldsmiths in al-Zaytunah, 'Ayn Shams, and al-Khankah have been closed following the arrest of all the accused in the cases, except for one named Ramadan Mustafa Hasan who participated in the al-Zaytunah jewelry shop robbery.

The minister accused some lawyers of creating crises with the police department by instructing their clients who are accused in political cases to claim that their confessions were extracted under psychological and physical torture. But forensic doctors dismiss such lies. Some lawyers also carried instructions and assassination plans from inside the prisons, referring to the assassination of [writer] Faraj Fudah.

The minister said that the second defendant Ashraf 'Abd-Rabbuh, the assassin of Fudah, fled abroad. He said: The state and the Interior Ministry do not combat religion, but they will stand against those who use religion to carry out terrorist operations and murder. We have 480,000 mosques. Those elements who hide behind religion have used a number of them to hide weapons and bombs. This has led to a decision to place these mosques under the direct supervision of the awqaf Ministry.

Musa pointed out that the leaders and cadres of the first and second ranks of the terrorist elements are under the control of the security services, either because of their involvement in certain incidents or by virtue of the application of the emergency law against them. He noted that the crimes that take place are committed by a small group of misled youths. These boys are committing acts characterized by a lack of rationality and patriotism. They have lost everything, and religion plays no part in their actions.

He said: We have not requested that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman return to Egypt, but we will not prevent him from entering if he decides to come back. The minister addressed a message to the mufti of the al-Jihad Organization, saying: If you think that your return will be similar to Khomeyni's return to Iran, you are dreaming.

The interior minister denied that a church has been closed in Rawd al-Faraj, saying that no such thing has happened regarding churches that have received licenses from the state. He affirmed that the Rawd al-Faraj church has not received a license, which is against the law. The minister promised to consider the matter to grant it the necessary license.

Extremist Training Camp in Sudan Alleged

NC0302143993 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 14

[Report by Tariq Hasan]

[Text] Sudanese sources report that there is a training camp for religious extremists, including Egyptians, in the Hamrat al-Wazz area of Sudan.

Extremists infiltrate Egypt from Sudan via al-Kafrah in Libya without being spotted by Libyan or Egyptian authorities.

ROSE-AL-YUSUF has learned that the Egyptian security apparatus has recently captured four of these extremists in Cairo. Some of them were spending money extravagantly in a public place. Important papers and documents concerning their schemes in Egypt were seized from their homes.

Fundamentalist Suspects Arrested Outside Cairo

NC0202215293 Paris AFP in English 2043 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 2 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities on Tuesday [2 February] arrested nine Muslim fundamentalist suspects, including one said to be responsible for a series of petrol bomb attacks against police cars, a police spokesman said.

Police were also Tuesday on the lookout for eight other suspected members of the fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in the southern suburbs of Cairo.

'Ali Rayyan, suspected in attacks on police cars, was arrested in Cairo. Two officers and an agent suffered from serious burns last week in a petrol bomb attack.

Rayyan's brother Shaykh Jabir has been identified by the authorities as a key leader of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and was arrested in November during a crackdown on Islamic activists in the working-class neighborhood of Imbabah.

Two other suspects were arrested in the industrial suburbs of Hulwan and several automatic rifles seized. They men were rounded up after a round of target practice on the banks of the Nile during which a women was injured by a stray bullet.

The remaining six suspects were arrested in al-Fayyum, 100 kilometers (62 miles) southeast of Cairo, another fundamentalist stronghold.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Upcoming Papal Visit

EA0302212693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA)—RCC [Revolution Command Council] Chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir on Wednesday [3 February] welcomed the visit to the Sudan by Pope John Paul II of the Vatican on 10 February.

Speaking in his regular briefing for leaders of the national mass media, al-Bashir said the visit would enable the pontiff to have a closer look at the (?real) situations in the Sudan instead of relying on reports being published by hostile mass media organisations and other ill-intentioned circles.

The visit is also considered as a good opportunity for opening a serious dialogue with the Vatican, which is considered as an important centre influencing all developments in the world. Al-Bashir said this dialogue may contribute to pushing forward the efforts aimed at the realisation of peace in southern Sudan, the RCC chairman added.

Al-Bashir went on to say that the Sudan wants to affirm through the dialogue among religions the principles of religious tolerance, peace and love among the citizens of the homeland, irrespective of their religious believes.

History has proved the tolerance of Muslims toward believers in other religions, al-Bashir stressed, noting that the Jews, when they were subjected to persecution in Europe, the only safe haven they found was the Islamic world.

Saudi Paper's Office Closed; Correspondent Detained

PM0302113593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Correspondent in Khartoum Arrested, Offices Closed"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese, Arab, and international media circles have been surprised by the Sudanese authorities' arrest of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's correspondent and closure of the offices of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and its other sister publications in Khartoum in a step which has evoked disapproval and astonishment from the various parties.

Last Thursday men of the intelligence service stormed the newspapers' office. It was searched in a terrorist manner, and then colleague Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sayyid was taken to the intelligence service building where he is still being held.

Yesterday morning Al-Shafi' al-Kabbashi, director of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's office, received a letter from al-Mahbub 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mahbub, director of the Sudanese foreign media department, informing him "that a decision has been agreed with the competent authorities to close the company's office. Thus all the facilities granted to the office by the state—including telex, fax, and telephone lines and office equipment—can no longer be used."

However, the letter pointed out that these measures are to be enforced until "the administrative and judicial separation in accordance with the laws in force and the emergency bylaws"!!

The Sudanese Government's letter added that this measure includes "the invalidity of the press cards granted to the office's staff by the foreign media department, so they should be handed in to the foreign media department immediately."

The Sudanese Government statement signed by al-Mahbub 'Abd-al-Salam said: "While announcing these decisions I tell you that you appreciate that a great deal of tolerance has been displayed toward the publications issued by this company over three years during which journalistic action has overstepped its bounds, reached a saddening level of decline, and fabricated lies and pure propaganda against the great renaissance project whose foundations all the Sudanse people's sincere sons are helping to build. For the Khartoum office to continue to operate would mean that Sudan itself was stupidly and ignorantly participating in the unjust siege conducted by the circles of subservience and humiliation."

The statement attacked the publications of the Saudi Company for Research and Marketing, saying that "it has allowed its trade to perish in its unsuccessful endeavor to distort the numerous values with which Sudan is hoping to defeat the predicament of the past. We do not want them (that is, the staff of the company's Khartoum office) to

belong to a leadership which is blinded by prejudice and sickness in Jeddah, London, and Riyadh."

One day before they received the foreign media department's letter, the Khartoum office's staff received a letter from the "Martyr's Organization," to which ownership of the al-Taka building in Khartoum—in which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's offices are based and which actually belongs to [Democratic Unionist Party leader] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani—was transferred. The "Martyr's Organization" letter demanded that the offices of AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and its sister publications in the building in question be vacated.

The Sudanese authorities' decision is considered a shock for those working in the media field, even for the friends and supporters of the ruling National Front in Sudan, which has been boasting about its so-called democratic experiment, especially as the decision affects Sudanese citizens—scores of Sudanese families displaced as a result of this immoral decision.

While regretting this arbitrary measure against defenseless journalists, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT emphasizes that it will continue its position, which it believes is sound, in performing its journalistic mission and will defend its stands regardless of the policy of recklessness and tyranny characteristic of a regime like this gang which seized power.

Chadian Official Arrives With Letter for al-Bashir

EA0202205093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Feb (SUNA)—Mr Hassan Fadoul [Kitir], member of the Chadian National Salvation Council and secretary of state for youth and sports, arrived in the country yesterday [1 February] with a letter for Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and the Council of Ministers, from his brother President Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad.

Mr. Hassan Fadoul told SUNA that the letter dealt with the progress of fraternal relations between the two countries and joint cooperation in all fields, as well as methods for further strengthening and developing them.

Education Minister Leaves for Tehran 31 Jan

EA0102214593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA)—Education Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat left here Sunday night [31 January] for Tehran on a week-long visit to attend celebrations of the 14th anniversary of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

Sabdarat will hold talks during the visit with Iranian officials on boosting cooperation between the two countries in educational and cultural spheres. Sabdarat's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran comes at the invitation of Iranian minister of guidance and culture.

Rioter Killed in Price Protest 3 Feb

NC0402073993 Paris AFP in English 0329 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 4 (AFP) - At least one person died when security forces opened fire on a march to protest price rises in eastern Sudan on Wednesday, a well-informed source said in the capital Khartoum.

The source, contacted by telephone from Cairo, said the protest took place in the town of al-Qadarif, in Kassala province.

It was not known whether it was the police or the army who had fired on the marchers, who were protesting over rising prices for basic necessities.

Similar protests have taken place in other parts of the country since the start of the year, notably in the central towns of Wad Madani and Kusti, but Wednesday's march was the first in which fatalities occurred.

Sudan is engaged in an ambitious market liberalisation plan, without help from industrialised countries.

The annual inflation rate is estimated at around 110 percent.

Nasir Faction Condemned for Intercepting Relief Barges

EA0302214393 Khartoum SUNA in English 1655 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA)—The U.N. Office of the Special Coordinator for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan has strongly condemned the interception by the outlaws' movement's Nasir faction on 17 January of a convoy of relief barges carrying 2,400 tonnes of emergency food aid along the Nile corridor between Malakal and Juba.

"The Office of the Special Coordinator for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan strongly condemns this incident, which violates the Nairobi agreement "signed between the Sudanese Government and the outlaws' movement 5 December, said a press release by the U.N. Information Centre here Wednesday [3 February].

"This incident greatly reduces the U.N. capacity to immediately deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the areas" along the Nile corridor, the release said. [passage omitted]

It stressed that such incidents jeopardise future relief assistance to the south, calling on the Nasir faction to take [word indistinct] to ensure the return of the seized food and barges to the U.N. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Council Urges Return of Palestinian Deportees

JN0302185393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Feb (WAKH)—The Bahraini Consultative Council has called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution [799] asking Israel to immediately repatriate the [Palestinian] deportees in a move to bolster international legitimacy and implement this UN Security Council resolution just like all its other resolutions.

This came in a cable Council Speaker Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali on behalf of the council, the text of which was read at a session held today as part of its first term.

In its cable, the council voiced great anxiety over the tragedy of the more than 400 Palestinians, who were forcibly deported from their homes and homeland in defiance of the principles of legitimacy, international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [passage omitted]

Oman

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

LD0302134993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Muscat, 3 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today on a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He will hand over a message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, addressed to his brother Sultan Bin Sa'id Qabus of Oman. [passage omitted]

Confers With Sultan

JN0302143093 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God grant him long life, has received a written message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, issues of mutual concern, and recent developments in both the Gulf and Arab arenas.

His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered the message when his majesty received him and his accompanying delegation at Sultani Pavilion today.

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his excellency the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Sultanate attended the meeting.

Qatar

Yemeni Minister of State on Visit to Doha

Confers With Amir

JN0302132493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali' 'Abdallah Salih. The letter deals with recent developments in Yemen, bilateral relations and means to develop them, as well as issues of common interest.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Republic of Yemen's minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered the written message when he was received by the amir of Qatar today.

Comments on Elections

JN0302135393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (WAKH)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that general elections will be held in Yemen on 27 April this year as scheduled.

Speaking at a news conference in Doha today, Dr. al-Dali said that holding any Arab summit, despite its importance, should take place at the right time and in a manner guaranteeing its success and attainment of the desired goals.

Regarding the Palestinian deportees, the Yemeni minister said that deportation conflicts with the UN Charter and international law, pointing out that this problem can be solved only through the return of all deportees to their homeland.

Asked about the situation in Somalia, the Yemeni foreign minister said the situation there affects in one way or another the situation in the region. He hoped the United Nations would succeed in finding a political solution to the crisis there. He described the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina as a flagrant violation of human rights and held the international community responsible for the deterioration of the situation there.

Leaves Doha

JN0302181993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (WAKH)—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, left Doha this evening at the end of a two-day visit to Qatar as part of his tour of several Arab countries.

During his visit, the Yemeni minister delivered a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

Saudi Arabia

King, Pakistan's Sharif Urge End to Afghan Fighting

BK0402113793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif held talks with King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, in Riyadh yesterday evening. They expressed concern over the continuing fighting in Afghanistan and hoped that the Muslim brethren, who have waged a united struggle to liberate their country from foreign occupation will once again adopt a united stand for the restoration of peace and harmony. The two leaders also expressed confidence that the Afghan leaders will assess the situation around their country and work unitedly for a better future for Afghanistan.

The leaders of the two countries made a joint appeal to all Afghan groups to stop fighting, enforce a cease-fire, and resolve their differences through peaceful, political negotiations. They expressed support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

King Fahd appreciated the Pakistan prime minister's constructive role and sincere efforts to help resolve the Afghan conflict. He lauded the prime minister's courageous step in paying a visit to Afghanistan after the signing of the Peshawar Accord on the Afghan problem on 28 April last year. He also appreciated Pakistan's initiative in sending a special mission to Afghanistan on 29 August to help finalize a cease-fire agreement. King Fahd urged the prime minister to continue his efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan impasse and offered to send Prince Turki al-Faysal to Pakistan to assist in these efforts. The discussion, which lasted for one and one-half hours, was also attended by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs; Foreign Secretary General Akram Zaki; Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan and charge d' affaires to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Yusuf Mutabbakani assisted King Fahd. After the talks, King Fahd held a 30-minute special meeting with Mohammad Nawaz Sharif without any aides, during which major international and regional issues, as well as bilateral matters were discussed.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Jeddah from Riyadh yesterday evening. He was received at the airport by the deputy governor of the region of the holy city of Mecca, (Sa'ud Bin 'Abd al-Mohsin); Chief of Royal Protocol (Muhammad 'Uthman Nazar); the Pakistani consul general, senior officials of the Pakistani Consulate, and high-ranking Saudi officials. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the members of his delegation are scheduled to perform a minor pilgrimage early this morning, after which they will leave for Islamabad.

Sharif Leaves After Visit

LD0402115593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1020 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 4 Feb (SPA)—Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Talks Held With PRC Official on Gulf Security

JN0302191793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the PRC have stressed the importance of security and stability in the Gulf region in accordance with international principles and laws stipulating noninterference in domestic affairs, good neighborliness, and resolving disputes peacefully, and not by force.

During a meeting between UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah and Yang Fuchang, PRC deputy foreign minister for Middle East and North African affairs [name and title as received], the two states emphasized the importance of Iraq's compliance with Security Council resolutions pertaining to its invasion of Kuwait.

A responsible source at the Emirian Foreign Ministry told the UAE News Agency that the meeting addressed developments in the Gulf, ways of enhancing bilateral relations and consultations, and promoting economic, trade, and investment ties.

In a statement to the UAE News Agency following the meeting, Yang Fuchang said he agreed with Rashid 'Abdallah on the importance of cooperation between nations, in accordance with the principles and rules of international law and in light of the new world order which has crystallized in the post-cold war era.

The PRC official denounced Israel's noncompliance with Resolution 799 stipulating the return of Palestinian deportees, noting that the PRC voted for and was committed to this resolution.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Leaves After Talks

LD0302140193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and Kuwait foreign minister, has reaffirmed that Kuwait is not calling for an everlasting rupture in inter-Arab relations, but that it has reproached certain fellow- Arabs for standing by and watching as Kuwait was being invaded and its people's blood being shed as though nothing was happening. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the call to restore solidarity to Arab ranks, he said: "We believe that mutual forgiveness is

our best approach, but only when there is scope for that and when the Iraqi regime changes."

In a statement to the press on his departure today from Abu Dhabi to Muscat, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "We are not opposed to the people of Iraq, but we are opposed to the regime that not only humiliated the Kuwaiti people but also attacked them and killed them, shedding much blood." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that "in his heart, no Kuwaiti is prepared to forgive the [Iraqi] regime."

On the outcome of his talks with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that he found no change in Shaykh Zayid's policy, especially with regard to Kuwait. He pointed out that the policy is well-known and firmly on the side of the right. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the content of the Kuwaiti emir's letters he is delivering to heads of states he is currently visiting, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said it is related to the latest developments in the situation with Iraq and its implementation of Security Council resolutions on its aggression against the state of Kuwait, and the Iraqi regime's violations of Kuwaiti borders. [passage omitted]

Replying to another question, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, confirmed that there has been no breakup of relations between Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and Iran. He referred to existing diplomatic relations between the two sides and said they were still at ambassadorial level.

He added that recent GCC summit resolutions have emphasized the importance of good relations with brother Iranians, based on noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Shaykh Sabah hoped the two sides will find a common understanding on all the problems between them. [passage omitted]

Federal National Council Members Appointed

JN0302161493 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has issued Federal Decree No. 5 for 1993, appointing 40 members to the Federal National Council. The decree provides for the formation of the council for the ninth legislative term, comprising the following members:

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi:

Al-Haj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi

Rahmah Bin-Muhammad al-Mas'ud

Faraj Bin-'Ali Bin-Humudah

Hamad Bin-Sultan al-Darmaki

Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-'Utaybah

Muhammad Bin-Nasir al-Nukhayrah al-Khiyali

Rashid Bin-Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mazru'i

Sa'ud Bin-Rashid al-Shamsi

The Emirate of Dubai:

Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Bin-Sultan al-Habtur

Muhammad Bin-Hadir

Sultan Ahmad Harib

Sultan Biti Bin-Miqrin

Dalmuk Muhammad Bin-Dalmuk

Sa'id al-Kindi

Khalid Muhammad Ahmad

Muhammad Sultan Sultan Sa'id

The Emirate of Sharjah:

'Ubayd Bin-'Isa Bin-Ahmad

Rashid Bin-'Imran Bin-Tiryam

Salim Bin-Hamad Bin-'Ubayd al-Shamsi

Sa'id Bin-Humayd al-Jari

'Ali Bin-'Ubayd al-Za'abi

Sa'id Bin-'Ali Bin-'Ubayd 'Allay

The Emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah:

Salih Ahmad al-Shal

'Ubayd Sayf Jabr

'Ali 'Abdallah Musabbah

Yusuf 'Ali al-Bizzi

Ahmad Hamdan Al Malik

Sayf Salih Sayf

The Emirate of 'Ajman:

'Ubayd 'Ali al-Muhayri

'Abdallah Muhammad al-Muwayji'i

'Ali 'Abdallah al-Hamrani

Muhammad Rashid al-Shamali

The Emirate of Umm al-Qaywayn:

'Abd-al-'Aziz Ahmad Sayf

Sultan Muhammad 'Umayr

Ahmad Ibrahim al-Kharji

'Ali Jasim Ahmad

The Emirate of al-Fujayrah:

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Salami

Khalfan 'Ubayd Khalfan

Ahmad Khalifah al-Shamsi

'Abdallah Sa'id Rashid

Continuing Visit of PLO's 'Arafat Reported

Rejects Rabin Offer

NC0302155893 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Nadra Saouli]

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 3 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat dismissed as "unfair" Wednesday an Israeli offer to repatriate 100 out of 400 Palestinians deported from the occupied territories and now stranded in a frozen south Lebanon no man's land.

'Arafat, in his first official comment since the U.S.-inspired offer was made Monday, charged that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was trying to "go around" implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 ordering the return of the deportees who were bussed out of Israel December 17.

"Do you think that I can accept a decision from Mr. Rabin?" 'Arafat asked at a news conference in Baghdad on the second day of a visit aimed at patching relations with the Iraqi authorities.

"It is not a matter of accepting or not refusing. This is against international legality, there is double standards."

The United Nations is imposing sanctions on Iraq and Libya on grounds they failed to implement Security Council resolutions. Arab parties have urged that sanctions also be imposed on Israel for ignoring Resolution 799.

"Israel knows it is the only country that can say no to U.N. resolutions without being afraid of sanctions and punishment," 'Arafat charged.

Israel has offered to take back 100 deportees and reduce to a maximum of one year the term of exile of the others. It would also deliver supplies to the deportees and Washington would try to find a third country to give them refuge.

In return, the United States would block any sanctions against Israel.

'Arafat also announced that Iraq decided to give the U.N. Relief and Works Agency the equivalent in oil of 50 million dollars for Palestinian refugees.

"I can say on behalf of my people thanks from my heart" to President Saddam Husayn he said, adding that his talks with the Iraqi leader had been "warm, successful and constructive at all levels."

Iraq is banned from selling oil under Gulf War ceasefire resolutions but has been authorised by the United Nations to sell 1.6 billion dollars worth for humanitarian uses.

Under the plan, the United Nations can supervise the sales and keep 30 percent of earnings to finance U.N. missions in Iraq. Baghdad has steadfastly rejected these conditions.

'Arafat met Saddam twice since his arrival overnight Monday for talks which he said covered the plight of the deportees, the stalled Middle East peace process and bilateral ties.

Relations between Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were strained after PLO officials last month apologised to Gulf Arab states for supporting Iraq during the Gulf War.

The oil-rich Gulf states are the main financial backers of the PLO and had cut funds to the organisation.

But 'Arafat, who has not been in Baghdad since July 1991, five months after a U.S.-led coalition ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, denied that ties between the PLO and Baghdad were strained.

Meets With Saddam

LD0402105893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They undertook a comprehensive review of the Arab and Palestinian situations.

President Saddam Husayn reiterated anew Iraq's constant basic stance on support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and its brave Intifadah, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed the Palestinian question from all sides and the efforts made by the PLO to secure implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 797 concerning the deportees' return to their homeland. He stressed the Palestinian people's determination to continue the blessed Intifadah until all the Palestinian people's objectives of ending the occupation and setting up an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, were achieved.

The two presidents stressed the need to make every effort to revive Arab solidarity and joint Arab action in the service of the Arab nation and its aspirations. They also stressed the need for action to end the blockade against Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Brother Abu-'Ammar emphasized the PLO's constant stance on support for Iraq in order to preserve the sovereignty and unity of its territory and people.

The meting was attended on the Iraqi side by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Vice President Taha Muhiy-al-Din Ma'ruf, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Hatim al-'Azzawi, head of the office of the republic's Presidency and secretary to the President. On the Palestinian side, it was attended by brothers Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO political department, 'Abdullah Hurani, member of the PLO

Executive Committee, Abu Nizar [Sakhr Habash], member of the [Fatah] central committee, and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Iraq.

The president hosted a grand banquet in honor of brother Abu- 'Ammar, which was attended by the members of both the Iraqi and Palestinian sides.

Comments on Dialogue With U.S.

JN0402092893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has described Iraq's cease-fire initiative as a new chapter through which the Arab nation contributes to making a new world, lest this world be at its expense or at the expense of its future and children.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Yasir 'Arafat also described the Mother of Battles medal President Saddam Husayn decorated him with the day before yesterday as a medal for the Palestinian people and the children of the holy stones who are sharing their steadfastness with the Iraqi people. He said: My comment on the medal was that I told President Saddam Husayn: God willing, Palestine will decorate you with the al-Quds [Jerusalem] medal, which is the place of the Prophet's journey to the seven heavens.

Regarding the Palestinian deportees and the latest developments in this issue, Yasir 'Arafat stated that what Rabin said is an attempt to circumvent the UN resolution, and proves that there are double standards; one in favor of Israel, and another against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He stressed that the PLO will not accept this attempt to circumvent the UN resolution, because this will give Israel a pretext to further defy international legitimacy and the international will.

The president of the state of Palestine affirmed that the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, and the escalation of the intifadah, constitute a reply to these maneuverings, until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

About the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Yasir 'Arafat said that the new U.S. Administration has so far refused to receive any Palestinian delegation on the pretext that it is busy, while it has held official contacts, on the highest level, with the Zionist entity. In this regard, he noted that the U.S. side had in the past given an official pledge to resume the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue after the U.S. elections.

Yasir 'Arafat described the new world order as a means to use double standards, and that this was clear, particularly in the aggression against Iraq, its people, and children, and against Libya, Somalia, and the Palestinian people.

Southern Areas Reportedly Under 'Fierce Attack'

NC0302154493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Wide areas of the southern Iraqi marshlands are currently coming under fierce attack by tyrant Saddam's troops. The attacks aim to kill or displace the people and destroy their property.

Our sources report that an attack has been launched against (al- Shuwayti) village in al-Musharrah subdistrict of al-'Amarah Governorate. The attack killed and wounded scores of citizens, burned and destroyed their homes, and forced families to take refuge in the marshlands.

Our sources in the south also report that regime troops have attacked the village of (Salaf Dayr Haddad) in al-Kahla' district in al-'Amarah Governorate.

Troops belonging to the Ba'thist regime have launched an attack on (al-Rafi'i) subdistrict and (al-Jaras) village in al-Kahla' subdistrict of al-'Amarah Governorate. The regime troops used various types of weapons against the citizens, killing and wounding scores of them.

Iran Reports Curfews in Al Basrah, Al 'Amarah

LD0402120793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime has imposed curfews on Al Basrah and Al 'Amarah provinces. Iraqi Muslim opposition sources said this decision was made in the wake of the increase of armed operations by Muslim fighters against the Iraqi regime's military and security installations.

According to these sources, in the past few days the people's forces attacked several security centers in the cities of Kahla and (Mashrah) in Al 'Amarah Province, killing a number of Saddam's officers.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0402101993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] New York, 4 Feb (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations about continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace between 19 and 30 January.

In a memorandum he sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's envoy to the United Nations said that during the said period, U.S. aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in 1,215 sorties over different areas of northern and southern Iraq and at various speeds and altitudes.

The memorandum points out that the U.S. aircraft conducted 972 sorties over the southern parts of Iraq and 243 sorties over the northern parts.

The memorandum also states that on 21 January, a TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated the Iraqi airspace in the southern region. It also states that a two-aircraft hostile formation dropped three flares over areas to the east of Mosul on 22 January.

Arab League Informed of Airspace Violations

JN0402121693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued to violate its airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter he sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said the U.S., British, and French aircraft on 31 January continued to violate the Iraqi airspace flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and carried out 62 hostile sorties, thus threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In his letter, Iraq's envoy enclosed a table detailing these violations. He also said the Iraqi Government wishes to inform the secretary general and all Arab states of these regrettable facts. He asked that the letter be distributed to the member states.

Defense Minister Visits Forces; Briefed on Morale

JN0302202893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and defense minister, today visited the operations sector of the 'Amuriyah Forces, the 5th Corps. He watched a display of ground operations made by the fighter staff major general commander of the corps.

After the display, the fighter defense minister met at the Command of al-Qa'qa' Forces with the fighter staff brigadier general commander of the forces. He listened to a briefing on the fighters' preparedness and performance, and their high morale to defend our precious Iraq against all forms of brute aggression and conspiratorial chapters.

The two fighters, commander of the corps and commander of al-Qa'qa' Forces, discussed the obstacles facing their operations. The fighter defense minister advised that these obstacles be studied and overcome to serve and promote the combat capability of our valiant formations, making use of the rich lessons learned from the chapters of the ongoing great confrontation of the immortal Mother of Battles, to deny a chance to the defeated enemies who might be tempted to undermine great Iraq.

In a related development, fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, met today with the fighter commanders of divisions operating in the sector. The fighter staff major general commander of 'Amuriyah Forces attended the meeting. The fighter defense minister listened to the commanders' detailed explanation of the nature of the fighters' performance, as well as their high preparedness to make sacrifices in defense of the sovereignty and national unity of great Iraq.

During the meeting, the fighter defense minister said: In addition to the major task assigned to all of us and to all other command levels; namely, training, there is another mission, which is no less important than training, represented by constant education and promoting awareness and psychological fortification of fighters in line with the jihad phase being experienced by our people and struggling Iraq. This noble mission is undertaken by zealous fighters in the Moral Guidance Department, and struggler comrades at the Military Organization, through individual meetings and cultural lectures to fighters, beginning with the front trenches of pride and honor and ending with the administrative units.

Fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid added: I advise the stalwart men in our giant Army to have patience, avoid idleness, and always be on the alert, since these are the traits of sacrificing strugglers who recorded for themselves, for Iraq, and for our glorious Arab nation, honorable heroic and historic stands, in which every zealous Iraqi and genuine Arab take pride, in defense of honor, dignity, and sovereignty in the face of aggressors.

The meeting was attended by fighter Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff, several of his assistants, and the comrade colonel secretary of the al-Qa'qa' Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the fighter commanders pledged to leader mujahid President Saddam Husayn to make constant sacrifices in defense of great Iraq and the present and future of the Arab nation.

Paper Says Iraq Rejects Domination, Wants Freedom

JN0302131193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq has prevented mankind from entering the dark tunnel dug by Bush, the tunnel which he alone entered and on whom it closed.

In an article published today, the paper adds that the picture is now clearer than ever before. The paper goes on to say that everybody must know that Iraq does not fear anybody, nor is it intimated by the tyrannical forces of aggression. The paper affirms that the proper way to deal with Iraq is to respect its national and pan-Arab options as well as its right to a free life.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq would not dream of dominating anybody. However, the paper notes, the Iraqi people have the right to lead a free life in their country. Also, others, whoever they may be, must respect

the Iraqi people's national and pan-Arab options. Similarly, others must not act in any way whatsoever to harm Iraq's national and economic interests as well as the livelihood of its people.

The paper explains that the message of the Mother of Battles has become clear to all, particularly after the sorting process this showdown brought about between the Arab masses, who believe in their right to a decent and free life, and their exploiters, users of ill-gotten property.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Iraq's rejection of the new world order came about under difficult circumstances to prevent the U.S. hammer from falling on the heads of the people who might have been terrorized by the war machine of the imperialist aggression alliance and thus rendered incapable of saying how things really are.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Iraqis have lit a large lamp to illuminate the darkness in the world which was meant to last long by imperialist powers.

SAIRI Statement Commemorates Uprising Anniversary

NC0302164793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Announcer-read statement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI, marking the second anniversary of the popular uprising; date not given]

[Text] Go ye forth, (?whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle with your goods and your persons in the cause of God. [Koranic verse]

The popular uprising in Iraq two years ago recorded a unique event in Iraq's contemporary history which led popular struggle to the stage of steadfastness and attacks against the strongholds of the dictatorship and its head Saddam in Iraq. It turned silent criticism of the regime into an organized action in both urban and rural areas. The authority once again applied its desperate and wicked methods by terrorizing the people and committing mass murder at the slightest suspicion. Despite all these methods, it failed to stop popular rejection. Hence, it resorted to other methods, like evacuating the people, setting up detention camps, drying up the marshlands, and imposing an economic embargo on the areas whose loyalty was questioned. It applied the scorched-earth policy in various areas without success.

Now after the uprising experience and the reality it generated, we find it necessary, as we contribute to resistance efforts, to state a number of points that expose the truth and contribute to a clear vision of the future.

1. The uprising was the practical referendum in which the Iraqi people sacrificed their blood to express their rejection and their determination to change the dictator-like authority;

2. Having suppressed the overwhelming popular movement, the regime is now intensifying its oppression and terrorism to guarantee its stay in power. This has given the masses a lawful justification for reviving resistance and translating it into practical action;

3. Through the uprising experience and subsequent events, our people realized beyond a doubt that the West, through its dealing with the regime and the state of persecution in Iraq, thinks only in terms of its own interests. The best evidence of this can be found in the West's negative stand on the popular uprising;

4. The process of change undertaken by the Iraqi opposition is proceeding toward its objectives in the political and struggling aspects, which represent the two dimensions of our action amid the various complexities;

5. One of the lessons our people derived from the uprising was the need to depend on God Almighty and on the nation's own resources to achieve victory against tyrant Saddam;

6. Jihad is the optimal method our people adopted to wrest our rights from the tyrant;

7. The unity of the opposition and its plan for change must reflect our people's aspirations and their belief in Iraq's unity;

8. There is no longer any sense in dealing with the authority because of its crimes in Iraq and the region. All efforts must be consolidated to rid Iraq of the authority's evils and injustice;

9. The basic mission to achieve the goals that triggered the uprising in the first place is represented in maintaining the unity of the ranks, backing jihad movements, and achieving a revolutionary revival at the domestic level. The armed forces are part of the people; they withstood a lot of oppression and persecution by the regime. These forces must shoulder their responsibility, stand by the people, and contribute to rescuing Iraq from the dictatorship; and,

10. In view of the ruling regime's conduct toward our Iraqi people, public opinion in the region and the world at large is requested to support the popular resistance movement and the opposition program to enable the Iraqi people to rescue themselves and rejuvenate Iraq.

O you proud people of Iraq; with a relentless determination and a struggling spirit that does not know despair, we will continue to defend Iraq and sacrifice our lives for it. We are strong with your support, O our great people. We need you to be strong and feared by the ruling tyrants. Triumph is near. The day on which the oppressed take revenge from the unjust will be hard. The sun of freedom will eventually set on the pure lands of Iraq. Only then will the faithful rejoice with the God-guided victory.

[Signed] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq

Reconstruction in Telecommunications Sector Reported

JN0202144193 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 2, INA—In an earnest drive to reconstruct all that have been destroyed by air raids and missile strikes during the US-led aggression on Iraq, nearly all telephone exchanges, communications towers and post offices have been rebuilt after they were turned into rubble.

The massive destruction of all communication centres throughout the country was in line with the enemies' aim of turning Iraq into the preindustrial age, as the former US Secretary of State James Baker once put it in impertinent remarks made by him while he was conducting political dialogue with the then Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

And as Mr. 'Aziz put it in his comments on the barbaric bombing of Iraq by the aggressors, describing the indiscriminate bombing as a clear attempt by the allies to turn Iraq into an ungoverned country. Mr. 'Aziz was commenting on the destruction of bridges, roads, communication centres by enemy air raids and missile strikes.

Realizing that the enemies are trying to block their progress, the Iraqis were adamant in their determination to eradicate the aftermath of the war against their country.

Therefore, they started a great national and comprehensive drive to rebuild everything that was targeted by the enemies of Iraq.

Within Baghdad alone the Iraqis repaired—depending on their own potentials—around nine telephone exchanges, two telecommunications centres, the satellite communications station, the central post office in Baghdad and the Communications Institute.

In other major Iraqi cities a number of telephone exchanges were also destroyed. Those are the exchanges in al-'Amarah, Mosul, al-Diwaniyah, al-Basrah, Irbil, al-Fallujah and Tikrit.

Apart from Baghdad, around is telephone exchanges throughout Iraq's main cities have been repaired after sustaining a rate of damage ranging between 30 to 100 per cent.

Due to the earnest drive, around 308,000 telephone lines are now operational in Baghdad alone.

Meanwhile, in other main cities of Iraq, around 112 telephone exchanges have been repaired or established anew to operate around 343,000 telephone lines. This in addition to the repair of 162 microwave stations as well as 134 communications transmitters by Iraqi technicians and engineers depending on local potentials. It was a great surprise to many observers to see Iraq resuming communications with the outside world whether by telephone, telex or satellite communications.

Departments Engaged in Producing Local Products

JN0202155093 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 2, INA—Technicians of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals have saved the country some 106 million dollars in 1992 by manufacturing locally-made industrial materials and maintaining available spare parts and machinery, a source at the ministry told INA.

In a bid to foil the blockade imposed on the country, technicians of the ministry manufactured last year some 686,676 industrial items and maintained a large number of machines, the source added.

Meanwhile, the Tobacco and Cigarettes Department, as affiliate of the ministry saved the country 9.5 million dollars by increasing the production of locally-made cigarettes since the imposition of U.N. blockade on Iraq more than two years ago.

According to director general of the department, staffers of the department, in cooperation with the Military Industry Commission, have produced alternatives for spare parts and some raw materials needed for the cigarettes industry.

The director general said that his department, for the first time will benefit from the leftovers at the cigarette factories in producing high quality cigarettes. The quantity of these leftovers are estimated at 60 tonnes per month, he explained.

Likewise, the National Chemical and Plastic Industries, one of the mixed-sector companies, has saved the country some 10 million dollars. The company had compiled a research paper on manufacturing locally produced raw materials used in its production, chief among which is the plastic boxes. The company used to import its needs of raw materials, namely the 'HDPE' [expansion unknown] for injection. The U.N. imposed sanctions, however, have obliged the staffers to manufacture alternatives by mixing two companies and modifying some machinery. The experiment was fruitful and it saves the country about 708,000 dollars per year, according to reports.

Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has so far saved the country seven million dollars.

According to a source of the department, experiments have been made to find an alternative for the bentonite which was used widely in Iraq in various fields, including the drilling of oil wells, smelting, purification of vegetable oils and in sulfur refining operations in Mishraq Sulfur Department. Iraq used to import about 25,000 tonnes of bentonite annually.

The experiment, however, was a success to executing broad pile drilling, a method which was applied at the work site of

al-Ma'mun Communications Tower in Baghdad. Currently, the department is supplying the Ministry of Oil and departments of the Military Industry Commission with bentonite grinded to the required sizes.

The department also succeeded in producing alum used in tap water purification and other industrial operations. To avoid importing aluminium hydroxide, alum was succeessfully produced in the laboratories of the department from white kaolin clays in industrially-acceptable specifications, according to a source of the department.

In cooperation with the Mining Operations Department, the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department conducted a study to produce iron oxide from the low-grade hussainiyat, iron ore. The study resulted in producing high purity iron one suitable for steel industry.

Opposition Rejects Compromise on Deportees

TA0302203393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Knesset members [MK's] from the opposition factions today sharply criticized the government compromise on the deportee affair, describing it as government surrender and capitulation. Responding to several motions to the agenda on the matter, the prime minister defended the agreement in an emotional speech before the Knesset plenum. [passage omitted]

Our Knesset affairs correspondent notes that Labor MK Hagay Merom vehemently criticized the prime minister's attitude toward Justice Minister David Liba'i. [passage omitted]

Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, reacted this evening to MK Merom's statements and said that he regretted the fact that MK Merom had seen fit to vent his frustration over the fact that he had not been given an operative position by launching an unrestrained and libelous attack. Sheves described Merom's statements as pure lies and baseless accusations and said that he had grossly abused the Knesset podium. Sheves stressed that relations between the Prime Minister's Office and the other ministries were proper and fair. Routine and matter-of-fact meetings were constantly held with the representatives of the various ministries, as well as regular meetings between the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and the deputy foreign minister.

Shim'on Sheves today sent a letter to the Knesset speaker demanding that MK Merom be rebuked for what Sheves described as an underhanded attack against civil servants and an abuse of the Knesset podium for the airing of pure fabrications.

Names of 100 Returnees To Be Released by Weekend

TA0402091893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] By this weekend, Israel will publish the list of the 100 deportees it has decided to return immediately. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the arguments for their return will also be made public.

Military Court Refuses To Release Detained American

TA0402122893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Today the Ramallah military court refused to release Muhammad Tawfiq al-Hijjah, an American citizen accused of being a member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the police representative told the court that the suspect is refusing to cooperate with the police, unlike his two associates who were remanded in custody two days ago after admitting to membership in Hamas. Al-Hijjah, 34, who is the son of the Bi'r Nabala mayor, has recently been residing in his native village more than in the United States.

Fifty Palestinians Arrested in Hamas Interrogation

TA0302204693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] More developments in the interrogation of the two Arab U.S. nationals, who are suspected of smuggling money into the country for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]: Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov has learned that 50 suspects have been arrested since the interrogation begun, all of them Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Additional arrests are possible.

Our correspondent in the territories reports that there is great anger in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip over the issuance of closure orders for seven mosques in which Hamas and Islamic Jihad incitement material was seized. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Previews Peres U.S. Visit

TA0402114693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will travel to the United States next week to meet with leading administration officials, including Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Sources in his bureau said Peres decided on the trip after it became clear yesterday that Christopher will depart for the Middle East only on 21 February. Peres' visit was planned around the annual convention of NJCRAC [National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council] on 14 February.

The sources added that Peres will not seek to confer with U.S. President Bill Clinton but will meet with the top leaders of the new administration and Congress to discuss the peace process, the deportee affair, and Israeli-U.S. relations. If a Peres-Clinton meeting does not take place, Yitzhaq Rabin will be the first Israeli statesman to meet the new U.S. President in the second week of March.

Denying any connection between the timing of the trip and the alleged tension between Peres and Rabin over the fact that the prime minister conducted the latest contacts with the United States on his own, officials at the foreign minister's bureau noted that the visit was planned a long time ago. Officials at the prime minister's bureau also said they see no obstacle to Peres' trip to the United States at this time.

Peres associates voiced their amazement at the fact that Christopher, who spoke with Rabin on the phone many times, has not yet bothered to contact his Israeli counterpart.

Foreign Ministry officials also expressed dissatisfaction at the conduct of U.S. Ambassador William Harrop, who has been keeping his latest contacts with Rabin's bureau "secret." They said the Foreign Ministry was not let in on the contacts and agreements on the deportee affair, while officials at Rabin's bureau emphasized that both the foreign minister and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin were kept abreast of all the details of the negotiations with the United States. Peres and Beilin have not denied this assertion.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Compromise

TA0302164893 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Margalit on the "New Evening" program—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good day to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Margalit] Are you not a bit worried about the government's way of functioning? After all, the cabinet expressed both unanimous support and opposition for the deportations. Two hours before a decision was made to return part of the deportees, a cabinet minister told the Knesset that none of them would be allowed back. And the most interesting thing of all is the fact that Foreign Minister Peres was neither a party to the decision to deport the activists nor to the decision to reach an agreement with the Americans.

[Peres] No, I am not worried.

[Margalit] You find all this all right?

[Peres] Each government has its own style. I have participated in many governments and witnessed various styles. As for this case, I think I was more or less in the picture regarding the agreement reached with the United States.

[Margalit] Do you still consider yourself obligated to support both the deportations and the agreement with the Americans?

[Peres] The problem is not whether I support them or not, the question is whether I bear responsibility for these decisions and the answer to that is yes.

[Margalit] But you do not necessarily support them?

[Peres] I was not present when the first thing took place, and I have no wish to engage in retroactive appraisals. I have not done this, nor will I begin now.

[Margalit] Is there any secret clause in the agreement even though both the Americans and the Prime Minister's Office have denied it.

[Peres] I know nothing about any secret clause.

[Margalit] But could some kind of understanding that when Rabin visits the United States sometime in March-....[changes thought] or some other understanding that the rest of the deportees—those in the second group—would be returned earlier than promised?

[Peres] I assume that the government will announce that each case will be reexamined, even if the deportees fail to submit appeals. If it then transpires that some people were arrested for too long periods, or were arrested by mistake, then they will either be released at once or before their term is completed.

[Margalit] What is the logic in reaching an agreement just with the Americans? I understand that it was done to prevent sanctions being imposed by the Security Council. But why close a deal with the United States without getting some kind of Arab agreement that at least some of the parties would attend the ninth round of peace talks?

[Peres] Well, the alternative to making a deal just with the Americans was being left totally isolated. It is preferable to at least have the United States, this in itself already extricates us from part of our isolation. Besides, I believe that the Americans consulted with the Egyptians, something I myself had the opportunity to do. I had received the impression that the Egyptians would support such a compromise.

[Margalit] It appears that they also consulted with the Syrians. Did the Syrians perhaps also promise to attend the talks if Israel reached an accord of this kind?

[Peres] One can assume as much. I find it hard to believe that the Americans would have acted without consulting anyone. Therefore, they probably held consultations. Anyway, the important thing for us was not just the sanctions, but more primarily getting out of the international isolation we found ourselves in.

[Margalit] Did you feel this isolation during your recent visit to Europe?

[Peres] Yes, I felt it although the Europeans were very polite and very nice to me. When I told them that the problem would be resolved within two or three weeks, there was a change in the atmosphere.

[Margalit] What expression did this change in atmosphere take?

[Peres] They wanted to know all the details, ideas, and thoughts. I more or less told them that these were our guidelines for handling the negotiations.

[Margalit] Would you say that our agreement with the Americans constitutes a closed package deal, or could it be that although they are now talking about the immediate return of 100 deportees, they could later start talking about 200?

[Peres] Look, the problem is not one of numbers. We have now emerged from our international isolation. The

next stage will necessitate our return to the negotiating table. I very much hope that the Arabs accept the American proposal; however, in my view, the central issue is not so much Security Council sanctions or our status at the United Nations—I was not particularly worried by all that. What primarily concerns me, and all of us, is how to resume the negotiations. After all, that is at the center of everything.

[Margalit] But in that case, the Arabs can force us to accept the return of 200, 300, or even 400 deportees?

[Peres] Look, the Arabs can push but they are also being pushed. They are not the only ones setting the tone. That is not how things go. They should also be interested in peace. Numbers mean nothing here if the Arabs are not interested in the peace process. To the best of our knowledge, the Arabs also want to resume the negotiations.

[Margalit] But some of the possibilities and risks inherent in such a move were known to the government as well as to others. Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the government folded even before the first shot was fired. Perhaps in some future disagreement over some even more important issue, Israel will say no to the United States, but the Americans will know that if they push hard enough Israel will accede to their demands?

[Peres] Listen, folding is something more appropriate to sheets, not people. I know that Mr. Shamir himself folded on numerous occasions. We can say exactly the same things about him. After all, he ostensibly stood firm as a rock in his opposition to an international conference, but he ultimately attended an international conference which was identical to what I had proposed in the past. Mr. Shamir also brought back people who had been deported for life. Mr. Shamir made similar deals. There is nothing new about this. Let me tell you something, Israel's position is most definitely a complicated one. I neither wish to beautify things nor get into details. Sometimes we can simply plough forward, but in certain cases we have to compromise, even if this is occasionally unpleasant. Whoever tries to conceal this fact is hiding from the truth. I will not do that.

[Margalit] Is this compromise our red line or could it be followed by further compromises?

[Peres] I do not understand what you mean by further compromises. Not much is....

[Margalit, interrupting] More Israeli concessions.

[Peres] No, no. There is not much more left to compromise on. Let us say 100 deportees return, and some of the others were deported for nine months. Now, their deportation period has been halved, so that leaves four and a half months. Approximately 45 days have passed, so that leaves three months. Now, those who were deported for two years will only have to spend one year there. Once more, 45 days have gone by, so there is not much time left to play with. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] got the basic message. What were these deportations all about, if I understand correctly? They were meant to deliver Hamas a dramatic message that they have crossed the red line and that this would no longer be tolerated. That message has been delivered.

[Margalit] Even though the deportees will return before their original terms expire, and the fact that the world forced us to reach such an agreement with the Americans?

[Peres] They may be returning before their original term expires, but they have tasted the bitter taste of deportation and felt our iron fist. They now understand that Israel takes a very serious view of their actions, and also realize that the compromise was reached less for their sakes than to prevent an embarrassing situation at the Security Council, and to get the other parties—not Hamas—back to the negotiating table. Hamas is opposed to the very discussions and to the negotiations as such. We are not bringing Hamas to the negotiating table—the deportees will be returned to where they came from.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Rabin Defends Decision on Deportation, Compromise

TA0302145793

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1128 GMT on 3 February carries a live relay of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's address to the Knesset plenum in response to several motions on the agenda concerning the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and the subsequent Israeli-U.S. compromise deal to allow their gradual return. Rabin's 32-minute address is constantly interrupted by catcalls from the opposition.

Rabin begins his address by saying "the government made two correct decisions, with which I am at peace, because they are compatible with the policy of this government" in terms of political security. This policy consists of three elements: promoting the peace process with the Arab countries and with the Palestinians, which entails compromises on both sides rather than the total concessions made by the Likud; upholding national safety and the personal safety of Israel's citizens and the Palestinians in the territories; and "attaining as much understanding as possible with the United States" in order to promote the peace process.

He asserts that the government has vowed to fight terror as it continues to conduct peace negotiations, and does not consider these to be mutually exclusive. He notes the rise of murderous terror activities in the last 18 months, particularly those of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, aimed not only at murdering Israelis and Palestinians "but to kill the chances of peace and to sabotage the peace negotiations." That is why the government decided to deal a severe blow to the fundamentalist terrorist organizations and proceeded to arrest over 1,000 activists and temporarily deport some of them for a period

ranging from nine months to two years. Noting that no other Israeli government in the past 20 years had dared implement such an extraordinary decision, Rabin says the blow was so severe that "emissaries came from the United States and elsewhere to help them recover."

Rabin continues by saying that due to circumstances beyond Israel's control the temporary removal was delayed, enabling the Lebanese Government to take preemptive action. Noting that the government's decision had to be put to the test of the High Court of Justice, he categorically denies all insinuations that he had prior knowledge of last week's ruling or that he failed to foresee the subsequent uproar in the international arena.

Rabin states that despite the compromise deal whereby 100 deportees will be allowed to return, "the principle of deporting instigators, leaders, and organizers for a definite period of time has been upheld," which is something the Likud never attained.

Stressing the importance of an understanding and a dialogue with the United States, particularly in view of the advent of a new administration, Rabin says he decided to make a compromise for which he assumes full responsibility and which upholds the principle of deportation with regard to most deportees. He dwells on the provisions of the deal, stating that it "is based on an understanding with the United States that this is an arrangement whose conditions will remain valid until the end of the process which will last one year" and under which "the United States has undertaken to prevent operative resolutions against Israel in international forums, to make an effort to resume the peace negotiations, and to try to find host countries for the remaining 300-odd deportees." He points out that "the United States told us it considers this deal a fulfillment of UN Resolution 799 with a different timetable."

The prime minister reiterates his conviction that the original decision on the temporary removal and the compromise deal were correct "and created the basis for an understanding with America over an issue it has always opposed in principle, but has accepted in reality." He notes that in response to the U.S. assertion that it considers the deal a fulfillment of UN Resolution 799, "we told the United States: You may say that, but we insist on our position. We insist that it is a comprehensive agreement made up of one part which I suggested and another part put forth by the Americans."

Summing up, Rabin says "the overall picture in the wake of these two decisions is that terror has been dealt a blow and that chances have been created for the resumption of the peace negotiations based on an understanding with the United States. Both decisions are correct and complement rather than contradict each other, because they combine all three elements: promoting the peace negotiations, effectively fighting terror, and creating an understanding with the United States in hopes of resuming the peace process." The prime minister reaffirms that he fully stands behind the decisions "and that the future will prove we were right."

The prime minister concludes his speech by proposing that all the motions to the agenda be referred to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Palestinians Seek Assurances on Deportation Policy

TA0302122093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Feb 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Yehuda Tzur, and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians are demanding assurances from Israel that it will totally stop the policy of deportations as a condition for accepting the deal on the deportees and resuming the peace talks. Palestinian sources in the territories told our correspondent that this has been the theme of the contacts held in the last few days between circles close to the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. State Department, and that the PLO in Tunis has been in on the contacts. The sources noted that the U.S. State Department immediately notified the Palestinian delegation about the deal with Israel. Egypt is apparently a party to the contacts, in view of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statement in Cairo expressing the hope that an end would thus come to Israel's policy of deportations. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri stated yesterday that his country has forever closed its gates to deportees from the territories. [passage omitted]

Peres Says Individual Deportee Cases To Be Reviewed

PM0402103793 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 2 Feb 93 p 13

[Fabio Barbieri report on undated interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Davos]

[Text] Davos—"I do not think that this is the right time to call a meeting of the UN Security Council, because the Arab request for sanctions is absolutely unfounded. Sanctions can be adopted only where international peace and security are threatened. The problem of the expelled Palestinians does not fall into this category." Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke these words during a break in the Davos [world economic forum] conference. Peres had a tete-a-tete with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa Friday [29 January], moderated by Robert Badinter, president of the French Constitutional Court. An exchange of mutual accusations couched in a very civilized tone. After that exchange of views, however, the U.S. Administration stepped in with a request to solve the deportees issue as soon as possible. Peres did not give way on the principle, even though he modified his position over individual cases, confirming: "Each of the people involved can appeal against the expulsion decree."

[Barbieri] But they have all said that they will not do that.

[Peres] That is true, but I have already personally communicated to both 'Amr Musa and (Russian Prime Minister) Viktor Chernomyrdin that if the Palestinians do not do so, we shall review each case on an individual basis on our own initiative.

[Barbieri] Would it not have been better if the Israeli Government had done that immediately, before deciding on mass expulsion?

[Peres] Yes, it probably would have been better. But at that time the most suitable thing to do seemed to us to be to act as swiftly as possible.

[Barbieri] Apart from this issue, how are negotiations proceeding on the vote for the Palestinians?

[Peres] Only resident Palestinians, and not those of the diaspora, are likely to be allowed to vote.

[Barbieri] Resident where?

[Peres] That is a big problem, because it is linked to Resolution 242 on the occupied territories. [Peres ends]

Peres ended without explaining exactly what he meant by his affirmation. But it is not difficult to understand. By defining the territory in which Palestinians can vote, you define ipso facto the territory from which the Israelis will have to withdraw. For the time being, the discussion is still bogged down over interpreting the text of Resolution 242: The Israelis say that they will have to withdraw "from occupied territories"; all the rest say "from the occupied territories." If the second hypothesis gets through, Israel ought to leave part of Jerusalem as well, which it neither wants to nor ever will do. In fact in Peres' entourage they say that the hypothesis for Jerusalem is very clear and "not negotiable": No Palestinian will vote in Jerusalem. They will exercise their right in some nearby town such as Bethlehem, for example.

Shim'on Peres is also worried by developments in the situation in Iraq: "Today Iraq can count, on the one hand, on the fears which most of the Arab countries have regarding Iran and its religious fundamentalism; on the other, they absolutely do not want Iraq's territory—for the reason I just mentioned—to be split up or divided in any way."

Press Supports Package Deal on Deportees

TA0302151293

[Editorial Report] The entire Israeli Hebrew-language press on 3 February publishes commentaries and editorials on the Israeli Cabinet's unanimous approval on 1 February of the compromise reached with the United States on the deportees' issue. All support the move, saying it extricated Israel from international ostracism, but they also express the belief that the situation could have been avoided had Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin acted more wisely when deciding to expel the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to Lebanon on 17 December.

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew—owned by the Histadrut Trade Union Federation and, therefore, pro-Labor—carries both a strongly worded editorial and a commentary on the issue in its op-ed on page 9. Former editor-in-chief Hana Zemer, in a commentary entitled "If Not Wisdom, Then Cleverness," writes: "It was inevitable that the opposition would jump on the Israeli-American agreement on the deportees as though it had discovered a big treasure, claiming capitulation." Nevertheless, she adds: "It is a good accord and a reasonable compromise, especially in view of the alternatives. Still, there is no choice, but to state that the Israeli Government presented new proof of the old saying that a clever man knows how to extricate himself from situations a wise man would not have gotten into in the first place."

Zemer says "even a cautious person can claim that the first test in our relations with the new U.S. Administration passed successfully, but it will be wise not to put Washington to the test too many times."

The DAVAR editorial, entitled "At the Mercy of Strangers," claims that in the deportee affair "the government handed the initiative to others, thereby increasing its dependence on the goodwill of strangers." It notes that "even after the Rabin-Christopher deal Israel depends on foreigners—the deportees, who demand for all to be returned immediately; a readiness by Arab governments to absorb the deportees for several months (although it would then not be clear how the High Court of Justice ruling to permit the deportees to appeal while in territory under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control would be carried out); Security Council members' agreement to American requests to postpone the debate on the proposal for sanctions; and more than anything else, the U.S. Administration, which witnessed a superfluous display of Israeli weakness following a rash decision, from which capitulation was obvious from the start."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, in a page 2 editorial signed by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat, entitled "The Ball is in the U.S. Court," recalls that the Israeli media had all along urged Rabin to get off "the high horse" he had mounted over the deportee affair, "but we should not delude ourselves into thinking that it was what we wrote that shoved Rabin off the horse. It is the United States which handed him the ladder, which lifted from us the threat of sanctions and international pressure. The package deal is positive and desirable on condition that the United States, with Egypt's help, now provides the PLO with another ladder to lift the Palestinians back into the talks, because that is the main issue, that is our best weapon against the Hamas murderers of the peace, and only for that was it worth getting off the horse. We reached the package deal due to American pressure, and only American pressure will bring the Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan back to the negotiating table."

On its op-ed page on page B1, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ carries two commentaries and an editorial on the deportee issue. 'Aqiva Eldar, in a commentary entitled: "Unintended Advantages," writes that while it was agreed with the United States that the deal with Israel does not depend on the agreement of the deportees, "when it becomes clear that the deportees' encampment fails to disband according to the plan worked out by Jerusalem and Washington, the television cameras will once again focus on the Security Council." Eldar states that "Warren Christopher, imprisoned in his promise to Israel to prevent pressures for further concessions, might get embroiled in a head-on clash with the Nonaligned Bloc, and perhaps also with Europe. Moreover, if it transpires that it was yet another 'brilliant maneuver' by Rabin, we will find that the Clinton administration has also eroded from the outset its role as honest broker with the Arabs. Such a development is undesirable for the prime minister, who promised a breakthrough on peace in the coming year." Eldar goes on to say: "The first test of the package deal will be the number of participants who arrive for the next round of talks in Washington."

Gid'on Samet, on the same page, in a commentary called "The Danger of the Mistakes Along the Way," writes that "just as it was possible to forecast the developments, once they took place Rabin had no choice but to limit the damage as much as possible." He asserts that Rabin faced opposition to the expulsion not only from abroad, but also from among his own ministers, "therefore it was a superfluous mistake by him to throttle criticism in his government." Samet adds that "it is also a mistake to assume that Rabin will continue to keep the Meretz ministers in his pocket, not because they showed too many signs of doing something about their independent stands, but because of internal criticism inside their party." Samet concludes: "There is something educational about the backtracking from the big mistake. One of the main lessons is that Rabin should encourage a debate and criticism inside his government. Strangling such efforts, and any attempt to strengthen the government's right flank is a formula for continuing to make mistakes in the future."

In its editorial, entitled "The Compromise Agreement: A Step in the Right Direction," HA'ARETZ writes: "There is room for believing that at a relatively cheap price, Rabin managed to be freed of the trap into which he maneuvered Israel. The Clinton administration showed understanding for the prime minister's personal distress and generosity for Israel. Nevertheless, on the surface it appears that the secretary of state gave Rabin the choice of accepting the United States' generous conditions, or face the danger of a new Security Council debate which the United States would not prevent." The editorial concludes by saying: "White House circles described the agreement as a step in the right direction. This leads to the expectation that further moves will be made to end the deportee affair: Rabin should speed up the process and he has the ability to do so."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in its page 9 editorial entitled "An Acceptable Compromise," argues that had Rabin not agreed to the compromise "we would have started our relations with the new Administration with an unprecedented rift with the United States, which would have stayed clear of imposing a veto on an extremist anti-Israeli resolution in the Security Council." The newspaper notes, however, that "we should always remember that facing us in this regional dispute are the Palestinians, and not the Americans. It is with the Palestinians, and not the Americans, that we will have to reach a compromise in the peace process."

Criticizing the Israeli Government's decision to let 100 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees return from Lebanon and to shorten the deportation period for the remainder to one year, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 3 February in a page 6 editorial entitled "Rabin's Flinch" claims that the agreement is "far from a triumph." Although the paper admits that "in substance" the compromise Rabin reached with Secretary of State Warren Christopher "is reasonable," the prime minister also knows that "appearances are often more important than substance in the Middle East." Stating that Rabin retreated "from a position he repeatedly vowed never to abandon," THE JERUSALEM POST writes that "to the Arab regimes and the terrorist organizations they support, his retreat will inevitably mean that Israel cannot 'do the right thing' for its security," because "the world will simply not tolerate it, no matter how fanatic, extreme, and hostile to the Western world the terrorists may be." Expressing doubt as to whether the Israeli Government "will garner what it considers the main benefit of the compromise—a favorable position in the peace talks," the paper goes on to note that "both the Arabs and the West have now learned that its ability to withstand pressure is decidedly limited." "The administration may interpret the Israeli 'climb down' from the deportation tree as a sure sign of softness at its core."

THE JERUSALEM POST concludes by admonishing Rabin that "if he intends to make compromises, he should not make blustering statements which preclude them," as "nothing destroys credibility more effectively than the flinch of a swashbuckler."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 3 February in a page 3 editorial by Yosef Harif entitled "No Contradiction," states that "contrary to what the left-wingers say, the government was right to deport 415 Hamas activists to Lebanon, and contrary to what the right-wing is now claiming, the government was also right to reach a compromise letting part of the deportees return." MA'ARIV writes that "following the wave of terrorist attacks, the Gaza Strip population had to be given a shock. Arrests no longer shock people there, but mass deportations do." Noting that the real danger to Israel's existence is not posed by the Palestinians or the Arabs but by Islam, MA'ARIV asserts that "this is not only our problem: Islam has been fighting against Western civilization for hundreds of years. The West must occasionally be reminded of this." MA'ARIV's conclusion is that although this harsh blow to Hamas was called for, Israel

cannot stand up alone against the Security Council and world public opinion for long, and "therefore, we had to reach a compromise."

Paper Views Public 'Disenchantment' With Rabin

TA0402125293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Rabin Is Treading a Destructive Course"]

[Text] The man who shamed David Liba'i in the cabinet meeting on 31 January got a cold shower in the Knesset plenum on Wednesday. The harsh and justified criticism Knesset Member Hagay Merom leveled at the prime minister was not acknowledged by the latter. As far as he is concerned, it is all nonsense.

Rabin, however, had better start paying attention to the signs: Less than seven months after the establishment of the government of great hope, more and more ministers and senior officials are beginning to criticize his style, the way he conducts cabinet sessions, and the decision-making process. In private conversations, ministers will tell you that they have become rubber stamps, that Rabin presents them with faits accomplis and demands from them obedience through their votes. Those who dare to stray get rapped on the knuckles.

Rabin is convinced that it is only thanks to him that Labor returned to power and that everybody sitting around the government table owes him personally. That may be true, but it is a long way from this to running an unbridled presidential regime. His choices are odd: He ignores Peres' wisdom and experience; he favors Shahal's horse trading over Liba'i's common sense. Only about Der'i does he have nothing bad to say.

The Rabin government has begun treading a destructive course, on its way to what the late Menahem Begin used to call "a government of snafus." The lethal combination of poor personal relations and lack of progress on the two main issues the government set out to promote—the peace process and economic recovery—is a foolproof recipe for an eventual fall from power.

Merom's castigation of his party leader reflects the general mood, not just in Labor and Meretz but among the public at large. There is great disenchantment with Rabin. If he does not have the guts to make vast concessions in order to attain peace and if he does not roll up his sleeves to reduce unemployment, he will lose his authority, both in the government and in his party. Then even Shahal will be unable to help.

Officials 'Angry' With France, 'Not Anxious' About UN

TA0402100393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Miryam Fuchs]

[Text] The United States is having a hard time preventing another denunciation of Israel by the UN Security Council despite the compromise deal on the deportees, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday. This is based on reports received from the U.S. State Department and the UN Headquarters in New York.

Jerusalem and Washington are very angry with France for refusing to join in the U.S. efforts to prevent another Security Council debate. France has submitted a draft resolution welcoming the compromise while, at the same time, urging Israel to fully comply with Resolution 799 and proposing that the UN secretary general continue to monitor its implementation by, among other things, sending Chinmaya Gharekhan on another mission.

Madeleine Albright, the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is also pessimistic about the ability to prevent another denunciation of Israel. She told Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi that the United States has failed to persuade the Arab countries to withdraw their proposal to impose sanctions. Jerusalem believes that in view of the Arab position and France's intransigent stance, the United States will back down on its intention to make do with a presidential declaration and will agree to a full-fledged Council debate.

At this point, the Arabs have no chance whatsoever of passing their proposed sanctions even without a U.S. veto, which is assured in the wake of the commitment made to Israel in the compromise deal. Officials in Jerusalem noted that approval of the French proposal would mean "going back to square one" and would leave the issue of the deportees on the Council's agenda for further debate. Yesterday, a senior Foreign Ministry official harshly criticized France which, instead of persuading the Arabs, is trying "as is its habit" to score points with the Arabs and is playing a negative role in the peace process.

Officials in the prime minister's bureau are not anxious about the possibility of another denunciation by the Security Council. "We have accumulated thousands of denunciations, and another one will make no difference," they said yesterday.

In a meeting on 2 February with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he had "reservations" as to whether allowing the return of part of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees was "sufficient." Nevertheless, Butrus-Ghali agreed with Lester Pollack, the head of the American Jewish delegation, that efforts should now center on a resumption of the peace process.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed great satisfaction with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz's declaration after his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, that Lebanon distinguishes between compliance with Resolution 799 and the continuation of the peace process. According to these sources, this declaration confirms signals received by the Americans in recent days that Syria is very interested in

returning to the negotiating table. Jerusalem believes that the joint U.S.-Egyptian efforts succeeded in persuading the Syrians that the compromise agreement on the deportees is enough to cancel the "linkage" between the deportee affair and the peace talks. Nevertheless, officials in Jerusalem are not ruling out the possibility that the United States might have to "reward" Syria for its agreement to resume the political process.

Documents Detail Hamas Medical Apparatus in Territories

TA0202192493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Interrogation of detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists has revealed that the movement had set up its own special medical apparatus that is part of Hamas' social organization. The headquarters of this apparatus is in East Jerusalem and is divided into medical aid committees in various provinces and districts. Those committees were responsible for outpatient clinics, medical laboratories, mobile clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, and professional doctors.

A charity fund affiliated with the so-called Hamas' Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Sanctities Department funded the medical apparatus in the West Bank. This apparatus relied on a cadre of doctors and medical workers from among sympathizers or supporters of the fundamentalist trend. Hamas' medical apparatus distributed special coupons to those who received medical services from Hamas.

Among the documents seized from Hamas activists are official receipts from the Aid Fund for Palestine and Lebanon, whose headquarters is in Britain. This fund was considered one of the major sources of finance for Hamas activity in the West Bank. Moreover, receipts issued by the Holy Land Institution for Aid and Development, headquartered in the United States, were also uncovered. This organization was considered one of the channels for funding Hamas.

U.S. Claim Israel 'in Harmony' With 799 Refuted

JN0402102993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Lest They Abort the Peace Process"]

[Text] It is astonishing and regrettable that the U.S. secretary of state claims that the Israeli offer of returning 100 of the Palestinian deportees, and reducing the period of exile for the rest, is in harmony with Resolution 799 and, consequently, this leaves no chance for the UN Security Council to adopt any measures against Israel. This is because the U.S. claim implies an exposed fallacy and ignores the fact that the Israeli offer is completely different from Resolution 799. In fact, this offer is an attempt to evade the implementation of the resolution, and not a compromise solution which is in harmony with it. It is important here to remind that there are no compromise solutions in dealing with UN resolutions. It is either these resolutions are implemented in full, or that any other thing should be implemented, but this thing cannot at all be considered a compromise solution.

Also astonishing and regrettable are the attempts London and Paris are carrying out behind the scenes at the Security Council to replace the call for imposing sanctions on Israel by issuing another resolution that includes a timetable on the deportees' return. This is because the new r: olution will actually be a disavowal of Resolution 799, and not an implementation of it. This disavowal is embodied by relinquishing the "immediate return" of all the deportees stipulated by Resolution 799, and replacing it with a "gradual return" which could last months or even years.

One should warn that if Washington succeeds in implementing the exposed fallacy it is now propagating, and if London and Paris succeed in disavowing Resolution 799, then this will result in another U.S. fallacy; namely, that it is possible to reach a compromise solution to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace formula, which would be represented by another British-French attempt to relinquish these two resolutions and that formula. This means that this unconvincing and dishonest U.S.- British-French dealing with Resolution 799 implies that the peace process will not be saved from a similar way of dealing with it by Washington, London, and Paris. Based on this, there is a pressing need to resist the attempts to abort Resolution 799 so that this will never be a precedent encouraging the abortion of the peace process in the region.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Amman From Baghdad

JN0402103293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman from Baghdad at dawn today following a working visit to Iraq lasting two days during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The two presidents held talks dealing with the current Arab situation, particularly the Palestine question, and ways of enhancing Arab solidarity in the face of external challenges.

King Visits General Command, Discusses Military

JN0302173093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the General Command this afternoon. His majesty was received by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Royal Ground Forces chief of staff; the Royal Air Force chief of staff and his aides; and the inspector general.

His majesty, the supreme commander, met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for a while and discussed with him a number of matters of interest to the Armed Forces.

Creditors Pledge Aid To Ease Balance of Payments

JN3001070993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—Donor countries have pledged $380 million in aid to Jordan in a move seen not only as a reaffirmation of international understanding of Jordan's efforts to improve its economy but also as appreciation of the Kingdom's commitment to democracy and its positive contribution to the Middle East peace process.

A statement issued in Paris by the World Bank, which organised a two-day meeting between Jordan and 24 donor countries and international agencies, said the gathering had promised $380 million to the Kingdom to help it close a gap in its balance of payments in 1993.

The statement, reported by news agencies, did not provide any split-up of the amount pledged or whether it included assistance to development projects or export credits.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Marto and several other senior officials represented Jordan in the day meeting which began Thursday.

Addressing a press conference in Paris, Mr. Fariz described the outcome of the meeting as "an appreciation of our role in the Middle East at large... of our role in the peace process."

Furthermore, the donors were also expressing their support for the democratisation process under way in Jordan in line with their efforts to link assistance more

closely to democracy and respect for human rights as well as sound economic policies, he said.

"Of all governments in the region, Jordan has a track record—of those governments in the process of democratising their countries—of having a very strong economic team," an international official who attended the meeting was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The official was also quoted as saying that Jordan was seen as a special case by the West because of the Kingdom's special role in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and that Jordan had also not been "penalised for what was perceived as its support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis

The cut-off in Arab assistance to Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis, according to the official, was "perhaps...a salutory shock for Jordan. There was a recognition that they could rely continuously on support from the outside at that level." [sentence as published]

Ram Kumar Chopra, head of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Department who chaired the Paris meeting, said that there was unanimous agreement among participants that Jordan was implementing the right kind of economic and structural adjustment policies.

Mr. Chopra also noted that Jordan continued to receive aid from non-Arab donors and the World Bank itself throughout the Gulf crisis. He said the Paris pledges completed Jordan's funding requirements for 1993. The Kingdom is expected to seek a similar amount for 1994.

Mr. Chopra did not give details of the pledges made by donors, but indicated that Germany, the United States and the Arab Monetary Fund as well as the European Community would make substantial contributions.

Diplomats in Amman said earlier that part of the assistance could come in export credits and financing for essential projects. Such aid would allow Jordan to use foreign exchange available with the Kingdom to adjust the balance of payments, they noted.

The promised $380 million come over and above the JD [Jordanian dinar] 289 million ($419 million) in foreign loans and JD 150 million ($216 million) in grants already provided for in Jordan's 1993 budget.

According to officials, Jordan needs close to $1.5 billion in 1993 and a similar amount in 1994 in external funding—including debt rescheduling.

Mr. Fariz told the Paris press conference that providing basic services for the 300,000 plus returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states was straining the Jordanian economy and that unemployment had risen above 25 per cent in 1990 before going down to 16 per cent.

The notable economic achievements of Jordan in its efforts to recover from the shock of 1988 when foreign debts burdened the Kingdom and forced a huge devaluation of the dinar include a scaling down of the budget defict to six per cent of the gross domestic product in 1993 from over 24 per cent in 1989 and an expected GDP growth of between six and seven per cent in 1993, Mr. Marto said.

According to the deputy governor of the CBJ, inflation rate should be kept to four per cent this year. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian delegation which attended the Paris meeting is scheduling to open talks with a steering committee of the London Club Monday. The talks follow the submission of the new Jordanian proposal several weeks ago. [passage omitted]

JSDP Eleventh Political Party Legalized

JN3101095093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Interior has granted legal status to the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party (JSDP), bringing to 11 the number of political parties in the Kingdom.

According to an announcement by Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul, the party will be operating within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution, the Political Parties Law and the principles of the National Charter. JSDP Chairman 'Isa Madanat said the legalisation of the JSDP was part of Jordan's on-going democratisation process, which is essential in ensuring policial pluralism.

In remarks about the establishment of the new party Mr. Madanat said the legalisation of parties was a first step to enabling the masses to shoulder their responsibilities, to participate in the making of a democracy and take part in the decision-making process on matters of national concern.

Mr. Madanat said he will address a press conference Monday to outline the JSDP's programmes.

President Says All Deportees Must Return

NC0302172593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has described the U.S. position on the deportees issue as a good step. But, he added, Lebanon rejects the division of UN Security Council Resolution 799. The president said: Israel deported the deportees all at once and therefore should take them back all at once.

Al-Hirawi mentioned that Lebanon has notified the Arab League secretary general that he is welcome to visit Lebanon to discuss various developments and Arab issues, including those concerning the deportees. However, Lebanon cannot agree to his visiting the deportees, as this would be a breach of the country's policy in this regard.

Buwayz Returns From Damascus, Comments on Visit

NC0302181993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister and lawyer Faris Buwayz returned from Damascus on board a private plane this evening, after holding talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He also spoke with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by phone.

The talks Buwayz and his delegation held in Syria dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the region, particularly the deportees issue and the ongoing contacts on peace negotiations. Buwayz made the following statement at Beirut International Airport:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] It was natural in the present climate to discuss several regional and international issues. Hence, I paid a visit to Damascus at the invitation of my counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. I had the opportunity to visit His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. We listened to his assessment of the regional situation.

My talks with the Syrian side were generally marked by full understanding of the various issues. We believe that the implementation of Resolution 799 is bound to establish the credibility of the UN Security Council and provide a favorable climate for resuming the peace process. Attempts to circumvent this revolution will lead to different interpretations for several UN Security Council resolutions. This is unacceptable. We believe that full implementation of Resolution 799 is the responsibility of the international community, particularly the United States as a superpower. We expect the international community, and the United States in particular, to make efforts to return all the deportees to their homes as soon as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you discuss the peace talks in general and will the deportees issue affect these talks?

[Buwayz] The issue of the deportees undoubtedly helps to create a negative psychological and political climate. The persistence of such a climate is bound to reflect one way or another on the peace process.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Minister. [end recording]

Sources close to Buwayz have learned that he will brief the Council of Ministers on the outcome of his visit to Damascus this evening.

Minister Says Israeli Decision Changes Nothing

NC0302204693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after the cabinet meeting in Beirut on 3 February—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Did the cabinet discuss the foreign minister's visit to Damascus?

[Samahah] No report was submitted to the cabinet. This subject will be discussed between the foreign minister and the prime minister.

[Correspondent] Did the cabinet discuss the deportees issue in light of recent developments?

[Samahah] What has happened recently does not change anything in Lebanon's stand, which is based on firm principles; namely that the issue is political and that the United Nations and Israel must implement Resolutions 425 and 799. The deportees are not present on liberated Lebanese territory but on Lebanese territory occupied by Israel. The recent decision does not concern us. [passage omitted]

Deportee Spokesman Says Clinton More Biased Than Bush

NC0402132693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees today said they refused to recognize their deportation as legal even if they had to stay in their camp for two years. Spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said the basic dispute with Israel is over the legality of the deportations. He said Israel will agree to take us all back if we admit that our deportation is legal.

Al-Rantisi said President Bill Clinton will be more biased toward Israel than his successor George Bush. He denied accusations leveled at him by Israeli Health Minister Hayim Ramon that he took part in killing an Israeli soldier. He said that at the time he was serving a jail sentence after being arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's remarks yesterday that the door will be open to deport hundreds of Palestinians, al-Rantisi said the door will be closed.

Maronite Bishops Support Stand on Deportees

NC0402094893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Maronite Bishops Council has stressed that the Lebanese Government's firm position on the Palestinian deportees, despite its humanitarian aspects, cannot be rejected. The government position emphasizes that Lebanon is no longer an uncontrollable state. The council said that the interest shown by Lebanese officials to the issue and efforts to return them to their homes are welcome and must be given priority among plans to which the government earmarks funds. Some of these funds should be allocated to rebuild war-ravaged villages, the bishops said. Anyone who can expedite a solution should do all he can, the council concluded.

Prime Minister on Criticism of Government

NC0402054093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Yesterday's cabinet session at Government House under Prime Minister al-Hariri concentrated on recent criticism of the government and the nation's financial situation. Official statements made after the meeting did not touch on these issues and had nothing to do with the session's actual discussions.

AL-NAHAR newspaper reported that in a speech during the session, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said that the government is under attack and that many people are involved. Al-Hariri said that the government will respond to the attack and all criticism directed at it soon. It will shatter the excuses of the critical and pretexts of the attackers, regardless of whether they are deputies.

In addition, the new pressure on the Lebanese pound in the exchange market and how to deal with it was raised. Information Minister Michel Samahah said after the session that no one will be able to make the Lebanese pound lose its value.

President al-Hirawi said earlier that he sympathized with the Lebanese people during this difficult economic time. He said the drop in the foreign currency rate was not accompanied by a decrease in the price of commodities. The government needs to follow up this issue, he noted. Though he believes that Lebanon's economic situation cannot be separated from the general economic situation in the world and the region, President al-Hirawi said those who financed the war for 17 years have not help find peace. The state now has to provide general services and facilities with the population's cooperation.

The president stressed the government's determination to continue the salvation march and see the homeland reach the shores of safety, despite the many difficulties. Al-Hirawi said he will attend the cabinet session when it discusses the appointments again, adding that those appointed should be given a chance.

Army Acts in Tyre After PLO-UNRWA Disagreement

NC0402120893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Units from the Lebanese Army's 7th Brigade took security measures in front of UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] offices in Tyre this morning. The act follows the escalation of a disagreement between the PLO and the UNRWA about the latter's dismissal of teachers and because the UNRWA recently restricted the use of health and food ration cards to Palestinians residing in Lebanon.

The PLO fears that the UNRWA action might signify that a census of Palestinians residing in Lebanon is being taken to eventually resettle them there.

A delegation from the Palestinian National Action Committee has visited Husayn Qabalan, Tyre's district officer, and explained the situation to him.

Sa'adah Accuses Ja'ja' of Plotting Against Party

NC0302195293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah has affirmed that the party decisionmaking process will remain the responsibility of party members and not a small group of separatist rebels. He called for vigilance and attention to the plot aimed at splitting the party, frustrating its role, and turning it away from its historical course. He also called on the members not to be taken in by glittering slogans and booby-trapped promises.

Sa'adah called for removal of the mask from the faces of those who claim to care for the party so that the true face of those who are behind the plot will be revealed.

The Phalangist Party leader welcomed opposition inside the party, but said he draws the line at the party's unity and survival and its link to the national project and to the principles of the founding leader, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Sa'adah affirmed that the decision to form an honorary council [majlis al-sharaf] was based on organizational requirements and on the seventh article of the disciplinary regulations. He described the attempt to split the party as a desperate act.

Answering a question on who is being accused of plotting against the party, Sa'adah said: I was very frank and called for lifting the masks to reveal the true faces. With all love, I directly accuse Dr. Samir Ja'ja', who has been plotting behind the scenes. The Phalangist Party leader appealed to all party members to be fully aware of the dimensions of the party crisis, which can be summed up in a clear equation between party democracy and hegemony with money and men; between legitimacy and the coupist mentality; and between revealing the true Phalangist face and hiding behind two masks and two personalities and upholding the plurality of the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces.

Lebanon's Buwayz Holds Talks With al-Shar', Leaves

JN0302195893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning. Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland Department, and Albert 'Asi, director of Lebanon's office in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with international developments and the regional situation, especially the issue of Palestinian deportees in light of Israel's attempt to avoid implementing Security Council Resolution 799.

In this regard, both the Syrian and Lebanese sides emphasized that the solution reached by the United States and Israel is not in line with the Security Council resolution stipulating the return of all Palestinian deportees, because Security Council resolution are not subject to bargaining or compromise.

The two sides demanded the Security Council continue work on implementing its resolution, which calls for the return of all Palestinian deportees to their homes, proceeding from the need to adopt a single standard in implementing UN resolutions and an eagerness to find a suitable atmosphere for resuming the peace talks.

Buwayz left Damascus this evening. Faruq al-Shar' and a number of Foreign Ministry officials were on hand to bid him farewell.

Commentary Stresses UN Resolutions Indivisible

JN0302163793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Rabin-Christopher bargain neither solved Palestinian deportee problem nor did it receive the welcome Americans had expected. Arab and international political circles agree that the bargain is an exposed attempt to circumvent Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the immediate repatriation of all deportees and holds Israel responsible for their safety. Contacts are under way to hold a Security Council session, while the UN secretary general declares that the U.S.-Israeli agreement does not constitute an implementation of Resolution 799.

Leaked reports indicate that Britain and France may present a draft resolution urging Israel to repatriate all the deportees but not containing the sanctions demanded by the Arab and nonaligned countries. The United States, however, called on the Arabs, through Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to bypass this problem and concentrate efforts on the peace process.

State Department circles hinted that Christopher might tour the Middle East and extend invitations to resume bilateral talks in Washington. In fact, the Arabs are eager to advance the peace process. They were the first to activate the peace efforts and they sincerely and responsibly responded to the U.S.-Russian initiative on a clear basis; namely, implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and its recognition of Palestinian rights in return for peace.

The Arabs expected the new U.S. Administration to use all its weight to get Israel to implement Resolution 799 and cancel its unjust deportation of hundreds of Palestinians. They expected the new U.S. Administration to insist on applying international law and abrogating the policy of double standards, which has caused the most severe damage to the cause of security, peace, and stability in the Middle East. What happened is that the United States bowed to Israeli intransigence, and not the other way around. After the agreement, Rabin announced that the deportee problem was no longer under discussion or negotiable. Returning a quarter of the deportees does not constitute an implementation of the Security Council resolution, since Israel has clarified that it is preparing prisons to receive the deportees.

What will be the fate of the remaining Palestinians? Will they remain in the wilderness, vulnerable to death, hunger, and siege, in violation of the Geneva Convention and human rights? The deportees unanimously announced that they reject Israel's decision and insist on the meticulous application of the Security Council resolution. No honest Arab can but salute these people's position and sympathize with them. The issue is one of principle and fate since international law cannot be divided and the Security Council resolution cannot be implemented in installments.

It is obvious that the U.S. position poses legitimate questions about the future of the peace process. It is known that the Arabs reject any settlement which does not include the restoration of all the occupied territory; namely, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon.

As Israel rebels against international legitimacy and refuses to take back hundreds of people deported unjustly, how can it return the occupied Arab territories and enable the Palestinians to determine their fate and build their future, apart from pressure, coercion, and terrorism? Who can ensure that Israel will implement Security Council resolutions calling for a comprehensive solution, while the United States itself has failed to implement Resolution 799? Will Israel, in agreement with the United States, also implement Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in installments by withdrawing only a few kilometers and then demanding a complete Arab peace?

These are legitimate questions which require clarification from the new U.S. Administration. Peace is impossible without full implementation of the Security Council resolutions, ending Israel's occupation, and securing the Palestinian people's right to their land, homeland, and future.

Afghanistan

Arabs Reportedly Arrested for Murder of UN Workers

BK0402073293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 4 (AFP)—Authorities in eastern Afghanistan have arrested more than a dozen Arabs on suspicion of their involvement in the assassination of three U.N. workers and an engineer, Afghan sources said Thursday.

The sources said 15-18 Arabs were being interrogated by the provincial administration in Ningarhar in connection with Monday's killings which U.N. sources here believe were deliberate.

Afghan sources said scores of Arabs who fought as volunteers alongside the mojahedin guerrillas against the former communist government in Kabul had now established themselves in the Samarkhel mountains overlooking the site of the ambush at Surkhdiwal near Jalalabad.

The incident was the second in less than two months in the same area.

On December 16 unidentified gunmen shot dead two Afghan employees of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an American non-governmental organisation, and fled with their vehicle.

No one has been arrested for those killings.

The detentions of Arabs came amid tremendous pressure on provincial governor Haji 'Abdol Qadir to initiate concrete action against those responsible for the latest attack.

The U.N. has suspended aid convoys carrying much-needed supplies for Afghans uprooted by months of bloodshed since the mojahedin took over Kabul.

Two U.N. officials also visited Jalalabad to demand that the local administration make a complete investigation of the ambush.

A statement issued by the U.N. Information Center here Wednesday said unidentified gunmen "deliberately" opened fire on two U.N. vehicles Monday, causing both to stop.

The gunmen in a blue pickup fired indiscriminately, killing the Afghan drivers of both vehicles, British national Tony Bullard, and Dutch water engineer J.A. van Hoeflaken.

The U.N. vehicles, belonging to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS), were travelling in convoy from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar to Jalalabad.

The lone survivor of the attack, UNHCR staff member Reinout Wanrooy, managed to flee to cover from the front car, dodging a hail of bullets.

Following the incident the U.N. agencies withdrew their international staff from Jalalabad and Kandahar "for consultations."

Travel on the Jalalabad road by U.N. staff has also been temporarily suspended, as well as on the route between the southwestern Pakistani border town of Chaman and the Afghan city of Kandahar.

Indian Diplomat Killed in Kabul Missile Attack

LD0302161993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] There was exchange of heavy weapons fire between government forces and Hekmatyar's Islamic Party of Afghanistan forces in Kabul, the Afghan capital, this afternoon. According to a report by a Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul, dozens of missiles and artillery shells hit western and central Kabul today, including near the Defense Ministry and the presidential palace. The Red Cross hospital, which is caring for 260 civilians injured in recent clashes, was hit by four missiles today.

According to the report, government fighter aircraft bombed the positions of Hekmatyar's forces in southwest Kabul this afternoon. Kabul Radio reported today that more than 150 people were killed or injured in yesterday's missile attacks on Kabul.

Two missiles hit the Indian and Iranian Embassy compounds, and an Indian diplomat was killed. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Source on Air, Artillery Attacks

LD0302172993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Following the mopping-up operation by the military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan the (?positions) and fortifications of the Golboddin agitating group were attacked today by air and artillery.

A source of the Ministry of Defense told BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section that the military forces of the Islamic State carried out an aerial attack on the enemy's heavy weapon positions in the south, as a result of which a number of the Golboddin agitating groups' positions and fortifications were destroyed and their supply route was blocked. The source said the Golboddin agitating group has not yet given up killing innocent people in Kabul and has made it the target of their rocket attacks. For this reason, the military forces of the Islamic State have an Islamic and humanitarian obligation to prevent the perpetration of un-Islamic actions by the Golboddin agitating group and to restore peace and security to the people of Kabul.

Spokesman Views Fighting, Jalalabad Meeting

LD0402114493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent, the spokesman for the Government of Afghanistan stressed that the war against Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami will continue. He adopted a softer stance toward the meeting of opposition groups in Jalalabad and said: The government respects that meeting and takes note of the opinions and proposals concerning the formation of government. Nurollah Emad declared earlier that with the formation of the Resolution and Settlement Council, the Leadership Council is redundant. The spokesman continued: The nationalist-Islamic forces of the north, led by 'Abdol Rashid Dostom, are under the government's supervision and the government will deploy them whenever it deems necessary.

In conclusion, he blamed the Hezb-e Eslami for the fighting between the Supervisory Council's forces and those of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. He said: Talks are in progress to end the fighting.

Clandestine Says Mas'ud Seeking Cease-Fire

LD0302143893 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] In order to cover up his shameful defeat in the ongoing battle, the so-called defense minister of the coalition administration is now seeking a cease-fire with the jihadi forces of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Eslami-e] of Afghanistan.

According to international news agencies, the defense minister of the coalition administration, the paper hero Mas'ud, said yesterday during an interview with a news agency correspondent that he wants a permanent cease-fire with the Islamic Unity Party's jihadi forces. The press agencies indicate that Mas'ud's untimely expression of this desire demonstrates his shameful defeat in the ongoing imposed war.

It should be recalled that just two days ago the coalition administration and the treacherous Mas'ud rejected the possibility of a cease-fire in the current imposed war against the forces of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, which was described as mopping-up operation. They expressed the view that their so-called mopping-up operation against the Islamic Unity Party is proceeding successfully. [passage omitted]

There was a major demonstration yesterday in Kabul city against the coalition administration. Radio Message of Freedom's correspondent in the city reports that a major demonstration was launched yesterday by the persecuted people of Kabul against the coalition administration. The report says that women and children also took part in this march to denounce the warmongering policy of the coalition administration in Kabul. They were demanding payment of their wages and supplies of ration coupons as soon as possible. They also demanded Rabbani's immediate resignation.

Although a BBC radio report said that this demonstration was minor, our correspondent says it was very important, especially during this time of cold weather, when the coalition administration imposed an illegitimate war on the innocent citizens. The people of Kabul are demanding that the present situation, imposed on them for the past eight months, be ended as soon as possible.

Hekmatyar Claims Coalition Failed To Achieve Goals

LD0302195393 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The mojahed leader of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, Brother Hekmatyar, has given an interview to a team of journalists from Radio-TV Message of Freedom. A part of its Pashto language version is hereby brought to your attention. It is worth mentioning that the remaining parts of the interview will be brought to you in our future programs, God willing:

Question: The Kabul coalition administration declared a military operation against Hezb-e Eslami. Has the coalition administration, in your opinion, achieved its objectives?

Answer: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Unfortunately, the Kabul coalition administration, instead of putting an end to war in the country and working for the establishment of peace and stability, resorted to war and in the winter sent its military forces against Hezb-e Eslami. Even if they battled only against Hezb-e Eslami, they also subjected residential areas to their fire and bombardment and caused the death and injury of thousands of innocent and defenseless people. A large number of homes were destroyed and a large number of people were forced to leave their homes. This was all done at a time when the coalition repeatedly sent peace delegations to us so that we could talk about the solution of differences and bringing about understanding. They sent Mr. Mohseni [Shaykh Asef] and, following him, Mr. Jebraeli came. They assured us that Rabbani promised that he does not want war and wants to solve all problems through negotiations [passage indistinct] and will never fight against the Hezb. We asked Mr. Jebraeli: How can we trust the words of the coalition administration at a time when it is preparing for military actions? Our reports say that they are planning a major attack against Hezb-e Eslami. The delegations went back on the same day and the next morning aggression by the coalition forces began against Hezb-e Eslami positions from the directions of Bagrami, Arzan Qemat, and Pol-e Charkhi.

Some commanders who were in the region had promised us that they would never allow anyone to attack Hezb-e Eslami trenches from behind. They received money to help the coalition forces and stationed a large number of

the coalition forces behind the front. They staged an attack at night. At first they made some advances and captured some strongholds of the Hezb, but only for a few hours. Subsequently they were pushed back and suffered heavy losses. Hundreds of them were captured and hundreds of them were left behind on the battlefield, killed or wounded. They did not achieve their goal or even capture an inch of terrain in the area.

Instead of helping Kabul citizens, preventing attacks on their life, property, and honor, and solving the problems of the people, they resorted to war. They are responsible for all these bloody events. [Passage indistinct] we do not want war. We refrain from war and want understanding. However, we want security to be maintained in the country and a government acceptable to the people to be formed. Our doors are open to everyone for understanding. We want an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding to be created between jehadi forces. If, however, the coalition administration chooses the path of war, we have to defend ourselves. The coalition administration not only failed to achieve its goals on the eastern front, but it lost a large number of its bases and had to retreat from many regions.

Question: Which forces cooperate with the Kabul coalition administration in this war?

Answer: A number of communist generals cooperate with the Defense Ministry. Their units have taken part in this war. In the parties, no one,—except Sayaf, who has a Jamiat [Jamiat-e Eslami] background and previously had split with Jamiat to form his own party—has helped the Shura-e Nezar [Supervisory Council] as a party against Hezb-e Eslami in this war. A number of dissatisfied individuals went to him. Now, only those members who had gone with him from Jamiat are with him in this event and are standing with him siding with the Jamiat. No other formation cooperates with Jamiat. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Scores Injured as Opposition Disputes Poll Results

BK0402045493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 4 (AFP)—Post by-election violence in Bangladesh early Thursday [4 February] left scores injured as the country's major opposition party disputed unofficial reports of a ruling party victory.

At least one person was hospitalised with bullet wounds after a victory procession by supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) came under fire around midnight, press reports said.

Police lobbed tear-gas shells to halt subsequent clashes resulting from disputes over the result of Wednesday's by-election in a Dhaka suburb.

City mayor and BNP leader Mirza Abbas, who was in the procession, was quoted as blaming the opposition Awami League (AL) activists for the attack.

Although the official result is not to be announced until later Thursday, press reports late Wednesday quoted unofficial results showing the BNP had retained the seat left empty by the death of its legislator.

Newspapers quoted AL leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed as accusing the government of winning through a "media coup."

Security has been tightened in the capital to ward off further violence, police and witnesses said.

BNP Leads

BK0402025493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] According to the latest unofficial results of 87 pourashavas [municipal corporations] received from the Election Commission, Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] enjoys a comfortable lead winning 44 chairmanships. Awami League has got 25 chairmanships, Jatiya Party, four; Independents, eight; Workers Party, two; Muslim League, one; Jamaat-i-Islami, one; [words indistinct], one; JSD-Inu [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Inu faction], one, and BSD-Khaleq [Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal-Khaleq faction], one.

Dhaka Seat Decided

BK0402023093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The candidate of Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], Syed Mohammad Mohsin, has won the by-election of Mirpur Jatiyo Sangsad [National Parliament] constituency of Dhaka-11 by a margin of about 3,000 votes. This was disclosed to newsmen by Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, the chief election agent of the BNP candidate, after the final counting at the Election Commission held in front of agents and leaders of all the candidates. He told newsmen shortly after midnight last night that the chief election agent of the Awami League candidate Motia Chowdhury, MP, A.H.M. Feroz, MP, and Abdul Kader Siddiky were present during the counting. Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed said the Election Commission has informed them that the unofficial results of the election will be announced at 1600 hours today as the counting of votes of other candidates apart from the BNP and Awami League was not yet complete. He said the unofficial results were available from the figures received from the presiding officers of the 117 polling centers.

Paper Views Implications of Clinton's Inauguration

BK2901130593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Let Bill's Journey Be Successful"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton has taken the oath as the 42d President of the United States and has entered the Oval Office. His desk is loaded with many problems and uncertainty looms over the future of the world. Some of these problems are new, while others are old. After about a decade, a Democratic Party President has again taken charge of the White House. The countdown has started. During his four-year term the people of the United States will evaluate his pledges and achievements. Not Clinton alone, but his party will be evaluated. He has made numerous pledges which include revamping the economy, solving the unemployment problem, improving health services, and ensuring social security. There are differences between the economic policy of Clinton and that of Reagan and Bush. On this issue he does not want to think like his predecessors. Clinton believes that the state has some responsibility in economic and social matters. During his election campaign, Clinton questioned why the United States should be regarded as the most aggressive nation in the world. Now, after assuming office as President he can reply to the same question on various issues including the war in Iraq, noninvolvement in Bosnia, and the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Though Clinton is giving priority to the domestic economic situation, he will have to remain more involved in tackling external crises.

Throughout his four-year term of office, Clinton will have to face the tests of time and circumstances. The future of the Democratic Party will depend on his success. It may be mentioned that at present the U.S. President is facing a great challenge: whether he will become the successor of John F. Kennedy or Jimmy Carter. Kennedy strengthened the party during his brief rule. He became popular by adopting the policy of fundamental rights and eradication of poverty. But the last Democratic Party president, Jimmy Carter, became unpopular because of his compromising attitude. He tried to boost the image of the United States by upholding the values of human rights. Due to this, U.S. foreign policy suffered a setback and Carter had to depart after one term in office. Clinton won the last election because he capitalized on Bush's economic failures. For this reason Clinton has no scope to deviate from his pledges. There is one similarity between Kennedy and Clinton. Kennedy's assumption of office marked the rise of a new generation. Again Bill Clinton, who is a representative of the post-World War II generation, marks the rise to power of another generation. Clinton is the product of the a young generation, the winds of which are now blowing in the United States after 30 years. Clinton reflects the image of Kennedy but he is wearing the shoes of Carter. But the small realm of Arkansas and the wide domain of the White House are not the same. That is why Clinton should tread very carefully. He is confronted with an unknown world where there is no cold war or rivalry. The world is looking to him for a new direction. The new president should be able to get this message. Clinton should start his journey to this new world with confidence and determination. Let his journey be pleasant and bring welfare to the world and the American people.

India

Embassy in Kabul To Close 'Temporarily'

BK0402125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] New Delhi has decided to temporarily close down the Indian mission in Kabul following intense fighting and continuing rocket attacks on the Afghan capital. All other missions, including those of China, Pakistan, Turkey and Indonesia, have also decided to evacuate their mission staff. The heads of missions took the decision at a meeting this morning. One security guard of the Indian mission was killed in a rocket attack two days ago. There was also damage to property of the mission.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India views the situation in Afghanistan with anguish, as there has been much bloodshed in the continuing violence. The people of Afghanistan have suffered enough over the last 14 years and India hopes that they will be able to settle their differences and work toward a stable and united Afghanistan.

Rao Campaigns for Upcoming Assembly Elections

Rejects Government Destabilization

BK0302161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Electioneering has picked up in Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura with the arrival of national leaders of political parties for campaigning for the ensuing assembly elections in these states on the 15th of this month. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, arrived in Agartala today for electioneering in Tripura. He was received at the airport by the chief minister, Mr. Samir Ranjan Burman, and his cabinet colleagues.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said that his government is firm in the saddle and nobody could destabilize it. Addressing a public meeting at Agartala today, he said his year-and-a-half-old government has put the economy back on the rails. Mr. Rao reiterated his call for putting a moratorium on the vexed issues for some time to allow the constructive work expedited.

Earlier, speaking at Tura in Meghalaya, the prime minister sounded a note of warning against political parties trying to disintegrate the country by fanning communalism. He said his party has always advocated secularism and treated all religions on all an equal footing, besides providing special opportunities to the weaker sections to develop. Mr. Rao criticized small regional parties, which are in the election fray, for not being able to deliver the goods.

Campaigning for the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], its leader Mr. Shatrughna Sinha, criticized the Congress-I for, what he called, not paying attention to the development of the northeastern states.

Rules Out Mid-Term Polls

BK0402042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has held the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] responsible for the recent communal riots. Addressing public meetings in Tripura and Meghalaya, he charged the BJP and other communal organizations with trying to disintegrate the country and stall its economic growth. Mr. Rao said what the country needs most at this juncture is peace and harmony to restore its image in the comity of nations. India's strength lies in its solid unity in the midst of varied ethnic groups, cultures, and religious faiths.

Mr. Rao said the Congress-I has always advocated secularism and treated all religions as equal. It provided adequate opportunities to the weaker sections to help them develop without losing their identity, culture, and tradition.

Ruling out the possibility for mid-term polls, the Congress-I president said his party will complete its full term and go ahead with its plans and programs.

Emphasizes Need for Stability

BK0402125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, says stable governments at the center and the states are a must for solving various problems. Addressing public meeting at Dimapur in Nagaland today, he criticized the previous Nagaland People's Council government in the state for stalling the process of development. Stating that the country is passing through a very difficult phase as forces of destabilization are rearing their head, Mr. Narasimha Rao criticized the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and like-minded parties for exploiting religion to derive political mileage.

Later, talking to newspersons, he said the center is examining the issue of lifting the ban on the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. He reiterated the government's willingness to have talks with the underground extremists within the framnework of the Constitution. On some neighboring countries' harboring underground elements, Mr. Rao said that India is keeping a close watch on the activities across the border and taking up the matter with the countries concerned.

Minister Quits Committee Probing Mosque Arson

BK0402111893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1050 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 4 (AFP)—A top Indian minister has quit a cabinet committee probing the razing of the Babri mosque, amid mounting dissidence in the ruling party against Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao, an aide said Thursday.

Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh, long seen as an aspirant for the prime minister's office, stepped down on Tuesday during a meeting here, stunning two other ministers and officials, one of his aides said.

Arjun Singh resigned after another minister disagreed with his criticism of Rao's role ahead of the December 6 demolition of the ancient mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots, the aide said.

"The minister has told the PM that he cannot continue in the committee," the official added.

Arjun Singh, currently visiting the northern city of Aligarh, was not available for comment.

The Indian Express newspaper said the resignation "brings to the fore the serious rift the Narasimha Rao government is facing on the issue."

Dissidence has been mounting in the ruling Congress (I) party over the way Rao, 71, allowed thousands of Hindu revivalists to converge at Ayodhya, leading to the mosque's destruction and unleashing bloody Hindu-Moslem riots.

The Express said Arjun Singh's resignation "is fraught with serious political repurcussions, coming as it does in the midst of swelling dissident ranks among Congressmen..."

On January 30, in a move seen to have Arjun Singh's backing, Congress MP K.N. Singh publicly asked Rao to resign as the Congress president, saying a new party chief was needed to take on Hindu revivalists.

"What we need is a full-time (party) president," said K.N. Singh, a former Congress general secretary. "Only then the party and the nation can be saved."

K.N. Singh said the ruling party's credibility had hit an all-time low and demanded an early session of its governing body, the All India Congress Committee (AICC), to revitalise it. The AICC is scheduled to meet in March.

Congress dissidents want the AICC to meet ahead of the February 25 public rally in New Delhi by the Hindu-revivalist and main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), which is demanding fresh elections.

Arjun Singh has backed the demand, and Congress MP Ramachandra Rath declared Monday that the rebels reflected "the wishes of the majority in the party."

On Thursday, Congress (I) spokesman V.N. Gadil admitted there was dissidence in the party, but said the anti-Rao campaign lacked mass support.

"There are dissident elements and they are raising some voice," he told AFP. "(But) they don't have any substantial support."

Rao became prime minister in June 1991 following general elections marred by the assassination of then Congress (I) president and former premier Rajiv Gandhi.

But the ruling party lacks a majority in parliament, and leans on allies for crucial legislative support.

The Arjun Singh aide said there was an increasing feeling in the Congress that the party was heading into trouble unless it forcefully took on the BJP, whose emotive campaign led to the destruction of the Babri mosque .

"It is time the Congress rallied its members and went on the offensive against the BJP," the aide said. "That is what the minister (Arjun Singh) feels and that is what he wants.

Andhra Pradesh Lawmakers Resign Over Abductions

BK0302141293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, four Congress-I MLA's [members of the legislative assembly] have announced that they have resigned from the membership of the state assembly, alleging inaction on the part of the state government for the safe release of the kidnapped MLA, Mr. P. Bala Raju, and other government officials. The four MLA's are Mrs. A.P. Vijayalakshmi, Mr. Rajasagi Krishnamurthi Raju, Mr. Bali Reddy Satya Rao, and Mr. Bala Raju.

In a statement issued in Visakhapatnam today, they said that they have sent their resignation letters to the chief minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. Our Visakhapatnam correspondent reports that they have jointly appealed to the extremists not to do any harm to the kidnapped persons and to release them on humanitarian grounds. As reported earlier, two Congress-I MP's have said that they are resigning from parliament for the same reason. In a statement issued in Visakhapatnam, the Rajya Sabha member, Mr. Dronamraju Satyanaraina, and Lok Sabha member, Mr. Konutala Ramakrishna, said that they have sent their resignation letters to the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, through a fax message.

The Andhra Pradesh government today gave full authority to Mr. C. Arjuna Rao, a senior IAS [Indian Administrative Service] officer, to negotiate with the Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] to get the release of the kidnapped MLA, Mr. P. Bala Raju, and other officials. Mr. Arjuna Rao has already reached Koyyuru. Earlier, talking to our Visakhapatnam correspondent at the airport, Mr. Rao said that he will assess the entire situation taking into account the demands of the abductors and also the views of the senior officers of the district. Meanwhile, the state director general of police, Mr. T.S. Rao, has reiterated government's assurance to the Naxalites that they will not be harmed if the kidnapped MLA and other officials are released immediately.

Paper Analyzes Cabinet Reshuffle, Rao Weaknesses

BK0402120193 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 20 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

[By Sanjay Puglia]

[Text] A mere glance at the new Union Cabinet makes it clear that throughout the exercise, Defense Minister Sharad Pawar's influence has been increased while an attempt has been made to clip the wings of Human Resources Development Minister Arjun Singh.

The newly inducted ministers in the Cabinet—N.K.P. Salve, Mukul Vasnik, and Dr. Abrar Ahmed—are leaders of the Pawar bloc, while the Arjun Singh bloc leader Dalbir Singh did not find a place in the Cabinet. After the Ayodhya episode, former Union Cabinet Minister Makhanlal Fotedar sided with Arjun Singh; hence his removal has also diminished Singh's status.

N.K.P. Salve has been given the energy portfolio. During the premiership contest within the party, Salve hosted a "dinner" for Sharad Pawar, and he is an elder statesman with status of his own. He carries with him P.B. Rangaiyya Naidu, former director general of police in Andhra Pradesh, who belongs to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's camp.

The reconstitution of the Union Cabinet and redistribution of portfolios have led to the conclusion by Congress-I sources that the entire exercise was based on the objective of ensuring the survival of Narasimha Rao. He has kept in mind—while balancing religions, castes, and regions in the Cabinet—that the entire team should be under his control. He has increased the presence of those who at one time or another had left Indira and Rajiv Gandhi. Only Satish Sharma is clearly seen as the representative of Sonia Gandhi. He has been given the economically and industrially sensitive portfolio of Petroleum and Natural Gas instead of the strike-stricken Civil Aviation Department. Congress-I circles say Rao was forced to agree to this.

There had been a great deal of discontent in all quarters concerning the performance of Home Minister Chavan. Rajesh Pilot, his challenger on the Kashmir issue, has now been made his assistant. This will create problems for Chavan, but Rajesh Pilot has been given control of internal security and not Kashmir.

It was hoped in the background of the Ayodhya development that Rao would bring forward a pugnacious, anti-Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] team while reconstituting his Cabinet. This did not happen. Many at the Cabinet level are unconvinced by and against continuing the Indira-Rajiv style in the working of the party. Sharad Pawar, Anthony, Dinesh Singh, N.K.P. Salve, Vidhya

Charan Shukla, and Pranab Mukherji have on various occasions left the party in protest against this style and then returned. If the present party mood is in favor of liberal Hindu forces on the question of secularism versus communalism, the new team confirms this. The party sources see in this prelude a declaration of the party's intentions on the Mandir and Mandal [temple-mosque and job reservation] issues. If Rao removed Shantaram Porthuke, a representative from Vidharba of the backward classes, he brought in Mukul Vasnik, former president of the backward class wing of the Youth Congress. Meanwhile, Arvind Netam and Mukul both were active members of the Oppressed Tribal Parliamentary Forum.

Many Congress-I senior leaders with popular support are missing from the newly constituted government. Sources close to the prime minister say they will be given importance in party organizational matters. But many party members believe that the non-use of P. Shiv Shanker, Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Nathuram Mirdha, Jugannath Mishra, and Shivcharan Mathur does not auger well in the context of the current political strategy of reassuring the masses. They are saying that Rao is complying with the formula of balancing religions, castes, and regional representation, but with leaders without popular support. For example, the sources say, Tiwari was offered the post of deputy chairman of the Planning Commission vacated by Pranab Mukherji, but he turned it down. His close aides say that Tiwari wants the post of either vice president or the first secretary general in the party organization even if the party constitution must be revised to create a post of vice president. It is also being said that a special campaign team, with a senior party leader at its helm, should be formed for the four BJP-ruled states.

The party men from Rajasthan are criticizing the removal of two elected members—Ashoke Gehlot and Girija Vyas—from the state to the Lok Sabha and the induction of two Rajya Sabha members, Abrar Ahmed and Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, although they fail to understand that the new members have wider popular support. Renewed efforts are also missing to increase the party's influence in states like Bihar, Haryana, and Gujarat. Party sources believe that Rao's steps to reconstitute government and the party organization lack rationality and are tactical maneuvering.

B. Shakaranand's portfolio has been changed. Three ministers of state—M.O.H. Farooq, Chintamohan, and Rameshwar Thakur—have been involved in bank scandals. Their role has also been under detailed investigation by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. A uniform pattern has emerged during the Cabinet reconstitution—the prime minister first removed the tainted ministers and then transferred B. Shankeranand and Rameshwar Thakur from the sensitive posts. The removal of Ajit Panja from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry against the background of the larger issue of alleged widespread corruption in administration and TV serials contracts also fits this pattern. Only [Railway Minister] Jaffar Sharief was saved due to the political compulsions created by the Ayodhya episode, despite allegations concerning the ABB engines deal, though he was cleared in a case alleging irregularities in the purchase of railway compartments.

Soldiers Killed, Arms Seized in Kashmir

BK0302144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, at least 27 Indian troops, including an officer, have been killed in fierce clashes with mojahedin. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], the clashes took place in Kupwara and Jammu regions. Five mojahedin were martyred in the clashes. According to the agency, mojahedin during their assault on positions of Indian troops in Doda District also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Arms Smuggling Effort by Pakistan Foiled

BK0402035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Indian troops have foiled an attempt by Pakistan to push arms into the Kashmir valley. They recovered the largest ever consignment of ammunition and hand grenades near the line of control in the Kashmir sector yesterday. According to an official spokesman in Jammu, the ammunition kept in 20 boxes was being smuggled into the valley by a group of intruders. The intruders fled away after a brief encounter with the army jawans [soldiers], leaving the boxes. They contained 15,000 rounds of AK-47 rifles, 1,120 hand grenades, one sniper rifle with 120 rounds, one telescope, and other assortments of ammunition.

Paper on Infighting Between Kashmir Militant Groups

BK0402132593 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 20 Jan 93 p 1

[By Suresh Dugar]

[Text] There has been an increased incidence of clashes between militant organizations in Kashmir. In the past six months, these clashes have become more frequent than those with the security forces. The main reason for these group clashes is the aggressive move of the militant organizations to strengthen their outfits close to the line of control. The occurrence of such clashes is most common in Kupwara District, which is close to the border.

There are six militant organizations in Kashmir, of which the Al-Barq is at the forefront. It has acquired a large quantity of arms from Pakistan and has close links with that country. The Al-Barq has routed all other organizations except the Ikhwanul Muslimeen. The Ikhwanul Muslimeen is also a powerful organization. Therefore, the confrontation is now between the Al-Barq and the Ikhwanul Muslimeen groups. The task of the security forces has been made easy because of the infighting

among the militant organizations. The security forces get a tip-off from rival organizations about the hideouts of their foes.

Commentary Examines UK Trade After Major Visit

BK0402110093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Journalist Harish N. Das commentary]

[Text] Judging from the positive response that the British premier, John Major, and his delegation of top industrialists got from Indian industry and commerce, one can safely say that John Major's visit has added further component to the economic cooperation between the two countries. Though John Major's visit was shadowed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit, yet the business tie-ups, decision to avoid double taxation, and the India- British business initiative will go a long way in benefiting both the countries.

An immediate impact of British premier's three-day visit has created sustained international awareness and interest in India's liberalized economic regime and the investment climate in general and provided a new impetus to Indian-British economic relations in particular. Hence, the visit was essentially a mission to India seeking to take advantage of the rapidly liberalizing Indian economy. The economic reforms program being implemented by the Indian Government has opened up fresh opportunities for trade and industrial cooperation with Indian firms. The proposed reduction in import duties has appropriately infused the recession-hit British industry to find a new market for its produce and thereby reduce its unemployment rate. And John Major has himself told the House of Commons that contracts worth billions of pounds have been signed which may create some 20,000 jobs in Britain.

British industrialists on the delegation, of course, made capital out of their visit. The industry leaders fanned out virtually all over the country making new business contacts and renewing existing ones. British Aerospace signed up with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for setting up a new software company. GEC [name indistinct] bagged high voltage direct current transmission project and British Gas joined hands with Gas Authority of India Limited for a project supplying gas to domestic households in Bombay.

At the initiative of the two prime ministers, the Indian-British business partnership initiative was established. The high profile of the mission is an evidence of a renewed British interest in India's investment climate and an attempt to probe new areas for British investments. The British investment in India is already about 2 billion pounds, significantly larger than that of any other country, and nearly 250 British firms are already established in India.

Britain is one of India's top five trading partners. While India exported goods worth 28,040 million rupees to the United Kingdom in 1991-92, its imports from that country amounted to 29,630 million rupees. India's exports to Britain in the recent past have included growing proportion of traditional items like readymade garments, frozen and canned marine products, tea, and tobacco. Lately, however, there has been an increase in nontraditional items such as engineering goods and India is now in a position to meet many of UK's requirements of components and parts such as pumps, diesel engines, and general purpose machine tools. Similarly, the composition of India's imports from Britain has changed along with the development of Indian economy. India now imports more sophisticated machinery, a variety of special [word indistinct], high technology aircraft, electronics and telecom equipment, and some high quality professional scientific and medical equipment. Many of these imports sustain India's own export efforts.

Britain has throughout been on the forefront of the single-market process and their record in implementing the various Community decisions is matched only by Denmark. The British Government has always been supportive of the liberalized endeavors of deregulation, removal of trade barriers, and increasing competition to be ushered in by single European market. The (?opposition), however, has been vacillating on the idea of a single currency which had isolated United Kingdom among the 12-member European countries. India is keenly seeking to have an entry into the new unified European Economic Community market and the British increasing interest for developing trade and industrial cooperation with India will enhance India's position to economic European market.

Iran

Iranian, Iraqi Officials Meet for Talks

LD0402121993 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 4 Feb 93

["Iran, Iraq To Improve Ties"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires to Iraq Mohammad Kazem Hasani-Tabataba'i in a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Road and Transportation, 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, in Baghdad discussed ways of expanding Iran-Iraq relations.

Both sides expressed willingness to provide facilities for Iranian nationals to make pilgrimage to the Islamic holy shrines in Iraq.

The meeting is considered as an step towards normalization of relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Tehran-Baghdad ties strained in the wake of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990 which resulted in the flood of alien forces to the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

U.S.-Israeli Relations, Deportee Issue Examined

LD0302135193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day, dear and respected listeners.

With the Zionist regime's approval to allow the return of 100 of the Palestinian deportees to the occupied Palestinian territories, Tel Aviv's statesmen have had to backtrack on this issue. [passage omitted]

Although the Palestinian deportees unanimously declared that just as they were deported as a group, they should also return as one, and have thus totally rejected the partial solution of the problem, the U.S. secretary of state, in his first reaction, nevertheless announced that with this decision by Israel it is not necessary to hold a Security Council session to review Israel's opposition to the implementation of Council Resolution 799. The resolution calls on Israel to unconditionally return all the Palestinian deportees.

There is a point which is worthy of attention in Israel's latest decision: The Zionist regime, for the first time since its inception, has retreated in the face of a UN resolution. What is more interesting is that this retreat has followed the pressure brought to bear on Israel by Israel's chief ally, America. This raises numerous questions about America's behavior and its strategic relations with the Zionist regime.

Political analysts believe that the change in America's behavior can be explained from the standpoint of the time factor and the political reasons involved. Before the cold war, America's principled stances differed totally with its actions regarding those parts of the Palestinian territories that had been captured and occupied during the Six Day War. That is, America's stance was that it did not consider these lands to be part of Israel but, due to the rivalry between the power blocs at the international level, America vetoed all anti-Israeli resolutions in the Security Council.

After the end of the cold war, America narrowed the gap between its posturing and performance at different levels and on different issues, especially in the Security Council. This is why Washington recently told Tel Aviv that America will not tolerate Israel refraining from implementing Security Council Resolution 799; that Israel should find a general or partial solution to this problem; and that if Israel continues its intransigence and the Security Council holds a session to discuss this issue, America will not be able to veto the decisions of the Council as easily as before.

These political analysts add: The reason for the change in the America's political behavior lies in the new strategy adopted by America. In this new strategy, Washington is pursuing its hegemonic objectives not through direct military intervention at the international level but by using the United Nations as a cover for its pursuits. In this strategy, America is trying to preserve the effectiveness of the United Nations as a lever to fulfill its own objectives and to give political priority to this goal. In this respect, Washington opposes any action that will weaken the United Nations, even if the troublemaker is an ally such as Israel.

Daily Accuses Afghan Groups of 'National Suicide'

LD0302151693 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb., 3, IRNA—Tehran and Islamabad should take the lead in initiative to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan, said the morning daily "TEHRAN TIMES" Wednesday [3 February] editorializing on the current situation in Afghanistan.

The paper said the events happening in the country by various groups was nothing short of "national suicide, and reflects their ignorance of the international problems."

"This situation doubly increases the responsibility of those countries who are in a position to put an end to this senseless fratricide."

Iran and Pakistan are two countries whose "top-ranking officials should engage in consultations and launch strong and well-planned mediatory efforts."

Undoubtedly the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is sick of the power strife going on between various groups and their power-seeking leaders and were extremely concerned about the future of their country.

The paper regretted that all of the crusading groups were exhibiting a "deplorable lack of political understanding" and said if the world mass media, the United Nations and big powers have shown not much concern about the tragedy in Afghanistan, probably it was because that the armed encounter in that country presented "no hazard for any of their interests."

It said in conclusion that the time was runing out very fast and all of the achievements of the crusading groups during the 14 years of armed struggle was about to be lost. Most important of which the Afghan nation were "losing their morale and hope for a just and peaceful settlement."

Afghan Party Leader Sends Condolences to Velayati

LD0302174993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Following an incident in Kabul in which one of the employees of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry was injured and a local employee of the Iranian Embassy was martyred, the secretary general of Hezb-e Wahdat

Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] of Afghanistan, in a message to Foreign Minister Velayati, expressed regrets and offered his deep sympathy.

Velayati Comments on U.S. Policies on Iran, Iraq

NC0402114993 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Jan 93 pp 1, 16

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified RESALAT Foreign Policy Desk correspondent in Tehran on 26 January]

[Text] [RESALAT] In view of the continuing U.S. air strikes on Iraq and the stances the two sides have recently adopted, what is our Foreign Ministry's position?

[Velayati] We oppose dismembering Iraq. We oppose foreign intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs. We also oppose any so-called powerful member of the UN Security Council interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs on the pretext of implementing Security Council decisions and doing something that will ultimately harm the Iraqi people. They down bombs and missiles on the innocent Iraqi people. We do not equate the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi people. The Iraqi regime lacks popular support. The Iraqi people have been greatly oppressed by this regime and we support the Iraqi people's wants.

[RESALAT] The Iraqi regime is now saying it has agreed to a unilateral cease-fire and will not attempt anything that is contrary to UN decisions. And, apparently because of this, many countries, including Russia and some regional countries, have abandoned the pro-U.S. stance they had on this issue. Does this also apply to us?

[Velayati] We do not determine the fate of the Iraqi people. But we also believe the situation in Iraq should allow the Iraqi people to express their views and choose the path they want to tread on the basis of democracy. The Iraqi Government today saying it adheres to international laws and tomorrow proving the opposite has created problems. The policies of the Iraqi Government have helped to create the current situation in Iraq.

[RESALAT] With the Democrats in power in the United States, do you foresee this new team in diplomacy increasing its pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran or will the situation that prevailed during the rule of the Republicans continue? Could their approach to the Islamic Republic of Iran change?

[Velayati] I do not think their general approach will be different from their past approach.

[RESALAT] Do you rule out a change even in their styles?

[Velayati] Basically speaking, a style or method does not determine or change anything. During the revolution, the Democrats were in power. The Republicans' and Democrats' records on the Islamic Republic of Iran do not differ greatly.

[RESALAT] During the rule of the Democrats, the Islamic Republic of Iran also witnessed limited military strikes. Of course the same applies to the Republicans. Could these strikes recur? Could the Democrats adopt a direct approach against us?

[Velayati] We do not see any difference in the methods used by the Democrats and the Republicans. Possible circumstances and decisions by the U.S. Administration will not change anything in the basis or ultimate outcome of the issue.

OIC Urged To Act on Bosnia Through UNSC

LD0302160793 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry Tuesday [2 February] called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to employ utmost efforts to materialize rights of the Bosnian Muslims through the channel of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC].

The call was made in a meeting between Foreign Ministry's Director General for Political and International Affairs Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzadeh and senior diplomats of the OIC "Contact Group" countries in Tehran. The group on Bosnia-Hercegovina comprises Iran, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Akhundzadeh underlined the grave responsibility Islamic countries were shouldering at this crucial juncture for deciding on the fate of the Bosnian Muslims.

The Security Council is to begin discussion on the proposals set forth by the Geneva conference soon.

Akhundzadeh further informed the diplomats of the deep concern of the Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, over disregarding the issue of ethnic cleansing by the Serbs in the geographical divisions proposed by the Geneva conference.

He also pointed to Izetbegovic's concern over monitoring and collecting the Serb's heavy artillery prior to the declaration of the ceasefire proposed by the Geneva conference.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Officials on Anniversary

LD0302165093 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Wednesday [3 February] that the message of Imam Khomeyni's Islamic revolution to the Muslim world was "the luminous tenets of Islam and the Holy Koran and the establishment of the Islamic government."

The speaker of the Majles who was addressing a group of Iranian officials and invited foreign guests on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution said, "by establishing the Islamic republic and implementing the Islamic tenets the late

founder of the Islamic republic, Imam Khomeyni, taught the world that an Islamic government can be instituted and God's commandments can be carried out without reliance on the West or East."

Referring to the separation of religion from politics he said, "in a bid to prevent the institution of an Islamic government the enemies of Islam throughout the history have steadily propagandized the idea that religion and politics cannot be integrated, and by furthering those policies they took a lot of advantage (of the Muslim people)."

He said there are other uprisings by Muslim communities elsewhere in the world which, he said, was proof of the fact that Muslims throughout the world were heeding Imam Khomeyni's messages. He added the situation has panicked the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

The Majles speaker observed that the world arrogance is apprehensive of the revival of Islam here and there in the world, and said the myriads of crimes being daily perpetrated against the Muslim people in Bosnia-Hercegovina aimed at preventing the establishment there of an Islamic government.

Navy Head on Tasks Ahead, Equipment Procurement

LD0402112193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The Iranian Navy, while maintaining its preparedness, will strive hard to advance its desired projects in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. This was announced by Rear Admiral Shamkhani, the Navy commander, at a morning ceremony attended by Navy commanders and personnel at Kuhak, on the auspicious occasion of the Ten Days of Dawn. He said: The Iranian Navy will receive more equipment in the near future, and Iran's military convoys, oil tankers, and merchant ships will continue being the vanguards of the region's naval fleets.

President Urges More Attention To Cultural Issues

LD0202181093 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—The Islamic revolution is a cultural revolution and "we should pay more attention to its cultural aspects", President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced here Tuesday [2 February].

Speaking to a group of officials of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, Rafsanjani called the council as a guide for the country's cultural, scientific, and educational system. The country's universities and educational conditions as well as cultural affairs have considerably changed under the cultural revolution, he added.

"They who struggled, sacrificed and attained martyrdom were inspired by religious thoughts and culture", he said, adding that although due attention is being paid to other issues, cultural affairs have been more emphasized upon. "Countinuing the process, we will pay more attention to cultural issues in future," he said.

Progress at the Ministries of Education, Health, Culture and Higher Education and Culture and Islamic Guidance depends on the council's efforts, said the president. Moreover, he added, the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council must utilise the services of experts and thinkers for further development.

"It is impossible to strengthen the revolution without committed and competent persons and the basic duty of a society is to secure efficient manpower. This would be realized by paying more attention to universities, research centres and cultural and guidance issues," remarked Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

The responsibility of the Cultural Revolution Council is to formulate cultural policies, procedures and regulations, since it plays a guiding role in the scenes of science and knowledge, he said.

In the meeting head of the council secretariat Hashemi Golpayegani briefed the president on the council's activities.

'Leniency' on Egypt Policy Called 'Political Folly'

NC0102130793 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jan 93 p 2

[M. Shahidi commentary: "Political Leniency Toward Our Friend's Coquettish Overtures"]

[Excerpts] Judging by appearances, a seething, violent hurricane—no longer a caressing zephyr—is flouting tradition and a renaissance [preceding word in English] in political thought and in the cultural sphere. The dust being blown from it is coming toward us but its final course remains swathed in a haze of ambiguity.

Fortunately or not, this flouting of tradition comes at a critical time for our revolution, when the maximum political and economic pressure is being exerted on Iran by the West, when the Islamic revolution's realistic quest for its Islamic aspirations has peaked. While there may be a direct or indirect relationship between these two, it is certain that those who formulate this political and economic pressure see no missing link between them. Obviously, a foreign observer will see articles such as "Direct Talks" [Vice President Mohajerani's call for direct talks with the United States, which generated much controversy] and "Iran and Egypt" [Mohajerani lobbying for ties with Egypt in HAMSHARI on 17 January] as a recommendation to change our foreign policy because of such pressure.

The intelligentsia have written much about ties between Iran and Egypt in the morning and evening dailies. So

there is no need to keep harping on about the merits and demerits of relations between the two. [passage omitted]

Anyone who believes that ties with Egypt will solve Iran's problems—that is the pressure on Iran over the Abu Musa issue will be relaxed—has learned nothing from the lessons of events of the past two years. They have forgotten Iran's help in solving the problem of foreign hostages, our stance on the second Persian Gulf war, and so on. None of these solved our problems. Instead, today, the West pressures Iran even more so that it might renege on its revolutionary and Islamic position on issues such as Salman Rushdie and the Middle East talks and align itself with the West.

We should not forget that only a day after his victory in the election, Bill Clinton called on Iran to discard its revolutionary slogans and align itself with the United States. These points clearly show the West's overt policies on the Islamic Republic of Iran, aiming to make the Islamic revolution's goals hollow and to bring the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with what the Westerners describe as a wise and logical approach that is acceptable to the international community.

We must recognize Egypt for what it is and know that it foments the campaign against the world's Islamic movement. It lies in wait to ambush our foreign policy and colludes with the West to make the Islamic Revolution hollow, without substance. Egypt knows its domestic problems stem from the elixir of life that sustains the Islamic revolution. Any leniency in our policy toward the coquettish overtures of our friend would be nothing more than political folly.

Egypt Rejects Iranian Participation in Book Fair

LD3001174693 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Egyptian officials rejected a request by Iranian publishers to attend the ongoing 25th Cairo Book Fair, Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ahmad Masjed Jame'i said here Saturday [30 February].

He denied a report by foreign news agencies that Iran had not forwarded a request to Cairo for participation in the fair.

He said that 10 major Egyptian publishers took part in Tehran's book fair this year following an invitation by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the first time.

The chairman of Egyptian publishers union in his visit to Iran expressed interest in participation of Iranian publishers in the 25th Cairo Book Fair. However, Cairo officials opposed presence of the Iranian publishers in the fair, Masjed Jame'i said.

He added that Iran has invited the Egyptian publishers to attend the forthcoming Sixth Tehran Book Fair and hoped that the Egyptian officials would not create obstacle in this regard.

He further said that Iran has already announced readiness to attend the next Cairo book fair.

Cairo fair opened on January 26 with participation of 65 countries. Iraq and Israel are not also present in the fair.

Petroleum Minister Views Petrochemical Complex

NC2901131293 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Dec 92 p 19

[Report on the inauguration of the Arak Petrochemical Complex and comments by Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in Arak on 17 December 1992]

[Excerpts] The peripheral services unit of the Arak Petrochemical Complex—which will provide water, steam, and power for the first phase of the complex—was inaugurated in the presence of the petroleum and information ministers on 17 December. [passage omitted]

This complex comprises 14 units for byproducts, six units for peripheral services, and 14 units of general installations. The peripheral services that became operational on Thursday 17 December include units providing desalinated water at the rate of 450 cubic meters an hour, a water cooling unit providing 35,100 cubic meters an hour, a 125-megawatt power plant, and a unit that generates steam, compressed air, oxygen, and nitrogen at the rate of 240 tons an hour. The cost of constructing these units so far is 55 billion rials.

Engineer Zahmatkesh, a member of the Board of Directors, said in his report that with the unit going into operation, production in the first phase would be over 350,000 tons of latex, plastic, and raw materials. This would meet the country's needs, saving $350 million in foreign exchange.

The main petrochemical products that will enter the market in the next [Iranian] year are as follows:

1. Light polyethylene: Some 60,000 tons to produce industrial components, domestic appliances, and packaging material for the transport of goods.

2. Heavy polyethylene: Some 60,000 tons to produce food packaging material, plastic utensils, and sewage and water pipes.

3. Polypropylene: Some 50,000 tons to produce pressurized and heavy duty pipes, material for domestic appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines, disposable utensils, and machine-made carpeting.

4. Polybutadiene: Some 25,000 tons to produce car tires, latex tools, and synthetic sponge products.

Interviewed on the occasion, Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh referred to the importance of the Arak operations, saying: This is one of the most important projects of our revolution, incorporating the most advanced technology. The project will have an effect on

the country's economy. Such is its importance that it will be an example for economic expansion and a guide for planning investment.

The minister said products from this complex will earn $350 million in the first phase and $550 million in the second. After the country lagged behind during the revolution and the imposed war, the industry made relative progress in the first Five-Year Plan. By the end of the first plan, Iran will be recognized as one of the most advanced countries in the Middle East and our production will have reached 9 million tons worth $500 million annually. Raw materials from the complex will cater to all the needs of the country's industrial units.

Referring to the Bandar-e Khomeyni Petrochemical Complex, Aqazadeh stated: We hope the complex will go into production next year and that by the end of 1373 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1994], its operations will be complete. The Tabriz complex is proceeding slowly because of a delay in its inauguration. Implementation has begun. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the second Five-Year Plan's objectives in petrochemicals, Aqazadeh said: We plan to have the entire complex operational for self-sufficiency in every petrochemical field. [passage omitted]

Minister Reports Steel Production, Mining Figures

LD0302193793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic of Iran has been transformed from a major importer of steel to an exporter of steel as a result of new policies implemented by the Ministry of Mines and Metals on projects for steel production.

[Mohammed] Mahlujhi, minister of mines and metals, announced this in an exclusive interview with us. He described the activities of units of his ministry in the fields of steel, copper, and aluminum, as well as new projects.

On activities in mineral exploitation, he said:

[Begin Mahlujhi recording] I think we are in a very good position with regard to the minerals and metal sector. Geological maps of minerals on the scale of 1:250,000 have been prepared. These are the basis for mineral exploitation. [passage omitted]

The private sector has welcomed activities in the exploration of minerals. During the year 1368 [beginning 21 March 1990], the nongovernmental sector invested 75 million rials in this area, while over the first 10 months of the year 1371 [beginning 21 March 1992], the figure is more than 7 billion rials. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, in the field of aluminum, copper, and steel, we have changed from a major importer to an exporter in the year 1371. [passage omitted]

We currently have the potential to produce 4 million tonnes of steel. The domestic market is saturated by a supply below that figure, so we have emphasized export efforts. This year we will reach a production figure of over 120,000 tonnes of copper. In aluminum, our output potential has increased from 75,000 tonnes to 95,000 tonnes, while casting potential remains the same—120,000 tonnes. [passage omitted]

In a year in which there was a slump in the world steel market, we project to export more than 700,000 tonnes of steel by the end of the year. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cooperatives Minister Views State Assistance

NC0402075793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Some 350 bilion rials have been allocated to the expansion and strengthening of the cooperative sector, according to Minister of Cooperatives Shafe'i, who added that this amount will be placed at the disposal of cooperative companies beginning 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] in the form of banking facilities. He also said that the government will pay 70 percent of the bank charges for these banking facilities to protect the cooperative sector.

Shafe'i criticized the lack of attention paid to the cooperative sector in planning and called for increased attention for the sector.

Speaking in Hamadan yesterday, Shafe'i said that the major reason for the consumer cooperatives' inability to meet the needs of their members is financial weakness. He said he believes that the best solution to this problem is to merge smaller cooperatives and create large [cooperative] shops in the cities.

* Government Strengthens Border Positions

93P40096A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Kabul, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A political crisis of dangerous proportions is appearing on the horizon. Official sources in the Afghan capital, Kabul, affirmed yesterday that Iran has strengthened its positions on the Afghan borders after a bloody battle with heroin smugglers in which 20 Iranian troops were killed. The battle, which lasted nine hours, broke out between a group of 120 smugglers and Iranian troops at a Jalil Robat border position before dawn Thursday.

The border point is near Malek Siah Kuh, a place where the Iranian, Pakistani and Afghan borders meet.

There were about 200 Iranian troops in the position attacked.

The smugglers used rocket lanuchers and armored cars wounded 22 soldiers and took 80 others prisoner.

This is the most violent battle between the Iranian border guards and the Afghan smugglers in continual warfare dating back to 1980. The number of Iranians killed in the 13 years of this warfare is estimated at 600. The number of dead on the Afghan side is more than 1,000. More than 10,000 smugglers have been captured and put in prison.

Sources in Tehran mentioned that units of the Special Forces had moved by helicopter to Jalil Robat and that these forces "would pursue the Afghan smugglers and apprehend them wherever they hide." This means that the Iranian forces may enter Afghanistan, Pakistan, or both behind the smugglers.

The drug smuggling operations in some areas of Afghanistan have become a major "industry." Huge amounts of opium are converted to heroin for smuggling to Europe and the United States through Iran and Turkey.

Sources at the antinarcotics bureau in Tehran say that the smugglers may have been successful in smuggling $12 billion worth of heroin and other narcotics from Afghanistan to Iran during the last 12 months.

Some of this amount is consumed domestically. There are 2.5 million drug addicts in Iran according to official assessments. However, most of the drugs pass through Iran on their way to other countries.

Earlier this month, Iran captured more than 1,300 Afghan smugglers in the border region and impounded dozens of trucks and a number of armored cars on their way back to the smugglers. For this reason, the attack at dawn Thursday may have been the smugglers' revenge.

The Tehran government is facing heavy pressure to reevaluate its forward observation posts inside Afghanistan where there is no central Kabul government presence.

However, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has denied this so far because he does not want to encoureage the dissolution of the central authority in Afghanistan.

The existence of about 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran, most of them concentrated in the eastern areas bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, gives the smugglers excellent cover for most of their operations.

In some cases, the smugglers claim that they are mojahedin, which makes it difficult for the Iranian forces to learn their targets and the timing of their attacks.

Iran has removed the arms from its eastern districts since the late Sixties because of good relations with Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 1979, for instance, the number of troops along the whole length of its eastern border did not exceed 10,000, to guard a border that is 2,600 km long.

However, the escalation in smuggling, kidnapping and other criminal activity on Iran's borders in the last 13 years has now convinced Tehran of the necessity of increasing its military presence in the east, according to the sources.

* Rafsanjani Team Posture More Aggressive

93AS0448P London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Informed circles in Tehran say that Rafsanjani has advised his colleagues and cabinet ministers, especially those who are part of his "team," such as Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic and financial affairs; Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank; and Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of industries, that they should drop their policy of quietude and acquiescence in the face of attacks by opponents of the so-called policy of "economic adjustment," and become bolder.

'Adeli's clear statement at the gathering of students at 'Alameh Tabataba'i University to the effect that economics has nothing to do with ideology was seen in Tehran and Qom as being the result of this very advice by Rafsanjani.

Informed circles say that Rafsanjani has come to the conclusion that if he shows restraint it will not mean restraint on the part of his rivals leading to some accommodation, however fleeting. On the contrary, he now has the idea that all restraint must be merely tactical, and that each withdrawal must be done in order to get a better jump over the obstacles.

Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli's remarks at the gathering of students at the aforementioned university left both supporters and opponents of the free economy with their mouths open in surprise. Shortly after his speech, a Majles deputy, of course without mentioning the chief of the Central Bank, said: Those who today have the nerve to say that economy is separate from ideology will be voiding the "late Imam's" commands tomorrow and saying that politics and religion are separate!

* Official on Resumption of Relations With Egypt

93AS0448D London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] 'Atta'ollah Mohajerani, vice president for parliamentary affairs, called for normalization of relations between Tehran and Cairo. Writing in an article entitled "Iran and Egypt" in the newspaper ETTELA'AT, he says "we must not underestimate the great nation of Egypt, for the vitality and depth of the Islamic culture in this nation is significant."

He mentioned the interest Egyptians have in learning the Persian language, and added: The interest in and attachment to the Islamic revolution in Egypt is clear.

Mohajerani concluded that the separation between the Islamic nations benefits those whom he called "the enemies of Islam." Mohajerani said: If Egypt is accused of being Iran's enemy, why do they forget that in the time

of the Iran-Iraq war, Kuwait supported Iraq? He continued with such questions: Is our relationship with our next-door neighbor Turkey weaker than Egypt's relationship with Israel? Are the privileges enjoyed by the nations of Western and Eastern Europe and Latin America greater than those of Egypt? Mohajerani says that Egypt must be evaluated in this world and with "existing criteria and in proportion to others, not compared an ideal country in a Platonic world."

The vice president of the republic said: The things Egypt's leaders, including the president of the republic and the Egyptian minister of the interior, are saying concerning Iran's role in the terrorist disturbances in Egypt, must not be used as a reason for having no relations.

The Egyptian leaders accuse the Islamic Republic of having had a hand in promoting the terrorism in Egypt, which has targeted the tourist industry there. In Tehran the name of Khalid Islambuli, the terrorist who killed Anwar Sadat, has been given to one of the largest streets, and this is the same street where the Egyptian Embassy was formerly located.

One of Egypt's conditions for renewing relations with Iran is that the name of this street be changed. Recently Ahmad [Namiq], chief of the Egyptian Interests Office in Tehran, returned to Cairo and gave no date for his return to Tehran, even though the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry said this return was "temporary."

In a harsh attack on Mohajerani in its 28 Dey (18 January) issue, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote that "mysterious hands are trying to create doubts about the clear policy of the revolution and the government concerning the Cairo regime."

Without mentioning Mohajerani's name, this newspaper writes: "Who does not know that the Camp David Accords-...made the entire Muslim world collapse in the face of Israel? Who does not know that the Cairo regime is an errand boy for Israel? What writer familiar with political affairs does not know that all of the mischief in the area against Islam, the revolution, and the Islamic Republic is coordinated in Cairo? How dare that writer, who does not understand the sensitive and tangible differences between Egypt, Turkey, and Kuwait, write a prescription for the Government of the Islamic Republic?"

* Japan Agrees in Principle To Providing Loan

93AS0448H London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Japan announced its agreement in principle to pay a loan to Iran for building the Karun 4 dam. The English-language newspaper JAPAN TIMES, published in Tokyo, wrote that the negotiations between Japanese officials and Kazempur-Ardebili, the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Tokyo, were successful and that Japan will pay this loan to the government of the Islamic Republic in several stages according to the progress of the work. The aforementioned newspaper writes that normally Japan makes these development loans in a single payment to governments that are not in special circumstances, but this rule will not apply to the loan to the Islamic Republic, because this government has unresolved issues with the Western and Arab nations.

Although this newspaper does not mention these "unresolved issues," the problems and issues include the struggle over the Persian Gulf islands with the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and also the support of international terrorism and efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

The Japanese officials say that Iran's adherence to the international treaty prohibiting the production, storage or utilization of chemical weapons made it easier to give the loan, but there is still no word either on the amount of the loan or when the first installment will be paid.

In a May 1991 trip to Tehran, [Taro Nakayama], the foreign minister of Japan at the time, announced that Tokyo was prepared to begin talks on the payment of such a loan. The last time Japan gave a loan to Iran was in 1975 for the implementation of a petrochemical project in Bandar-e Shapur.

During this time Japan withdrew from the implementation of this project, which was 80 percent complete at the time, and turned the completion of it over to the Koreans.

* Kuwaitis Rush to Tehran To Buy Dollars

93AS0448N London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Although the floating rate for the dollar was declared fixed by the Central Bank of Iran this week at 1,497 rials, on the free market the dollar was trading at 1,585 rials. The reason for the increase in the rate for the dollar on the free market and the great difference between that and the rate announced by the Central Bank has to do with the rush of Kuwaitis to buy various kinds of foreign exchange on the Tehran foreign exchange market. In addition, it was said that the rate for the dollar on the Tehran free market was 10 rials higher than at the Abu Dhabi market.

'Ali Pakpur, in an interview with KEYHAN, said: In view of the crisis in Iraq and the clash between America and its allies and Saddam Husayn, the Kuwaitis are worried about their future, and for this reason these days they are busy buying dollars and other important and strong foreign currencies on the Iranian markets. He said: The reason for the increase in foreign exchange rates on Iran's markets was also the purchases by the Kuwaitis and converting dinars to dollars.

Before this the Kuwaitis did most of their foreign exchange transactions in Dubayy, but these days, due to the crisis in the area they have turned to Iran, and the difference between the rate on the Tehran market and in Dubayy is for this reason.

*** Wave of Criticism Against President's Policy**

93AS0448J London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Supporters of the policy of "support," who are being strengthened by Khamene'i, have begun an extensive and organized campaign against the directions being taken by the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the area of liberalizing foreign trade. The first "Defense of National Production" seminar, held at Tehran University on 15 and 16 Dey [5 and 6 Jan], put the policy of "economic adjustment," especially in its commercial dimension, on trial, and they accused its proponents of having brought Iran's economy to destruction by implementing the policy of "competitiveness." The person running this seminar was Abol-Qasem Sarhadizadeh, an influential hezbollah leader and one of the main standard bearers of "Islamic economy." The seminar was held by the Islamic Republic Worker's Home and with the cooperation of the college of economics at Tehran University, the teacher's college and 'Alameh Tabataba'i.

Before the seminar met, Sarhadizadeh said at a press conference: "The nation's economic theorists must realize that the implementation of the classical economic ideas of America and Europe and putting them in place in the revolutionary society of Iran will never solve our economic problems and issues." Sarhadizadeh added: "Now a great many of the nation's factories have either closed or suffered great losses, especially in the textile industries, and the only reason for that is the opening of the nation's doors to excessive imports of foreign cloth and textiles."

The secretary of the first "Defense of National Production" seminar accused the nation's economic officials, saying that "without a full and continuous plan, they have called the nation's national production into unequal competition with foreign production, and this competition is beyond the capabilities of national production."

In the same press conference, Hoseyn Mahjub, secretary of the Workers Home of the Islamic Republic, said: Those who recommend the economic models of Turkey and South Korea for Iran must realize that these two nations have sold their independence and national sovereignty to America, and efforts are being made, using predefined roles, to give them a special economic role in the international division of labor. He accused the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani of being more hard line than England's "Thatcherism" in the area of privatizing the government factories.

Mahjub also said: "The government's imports and foreign exchange expenditures in the year 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991] were about $33 to $36 billion, in comparison to the insignificant nonoil exports, and this difference could have a severe negative impact on employment...." At the end of the first "Defense of National Production" Seminar, a seven-article resolution was signed.

In the midst of the widespread attacks by the supporters of the "Islamic economy" on the "open-door policy," Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has officially announced its inclination towards membership in GATT, the standard-bearer of international free trade. GATT supports the elimination of protectionist policies, free exports and imports, and the gradual elimination of borders and commercial barriers.

In his latest meeting with Arthur Dunkle, general director of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Sirus Naseri, the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative at the European UN office in Geneva, announced that his country wants to belong to GATT and has decided to make use of this organization's cooperation to expedite its plans. Naseri added that his country is in a new period of economic activity, and on this basis, and in order to change tariffs, expand nonoil exports, and create free-trade zones, it has begun to develop its international commercial and economic cooperation with other countries, including the member countries of GATT.

All the factors that Naseri emphasized to justify Iran's membership in GATT, especially changing tariffs, were harshly attacked by the circles who oppose Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the GATT's technical language, "changing tariffs" in the context of economic reforms means the gradual elimination of rigid and harsh customs regulations and coordinating with the international market.

With regard to the commotion raised by Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opponents over the change in international commercial policy and the reasons for Iran becoming a part of GATT, it appears necessary to mention the following few points:

1. It is clearly necessary, for a period of a few years, to close the borders to protect domestic industry, but converting a policy of protection to a permanent industrial and commercial strategy will do nothing but paralyze the national economy. For years Iran's industries have operated under the shelter of customs and noncustoms protection, and year after year they have declined.

2. Iran cannot work to increase its nonoil exports and at the same time close its borders. In other words, Iran cannot ask other countries to open their markets to Iranian goods while at the same time prohibiting imports of the products of others.

3. In the last few years many developing countries have joined GATT, and Iran is absent from the [Uruguay] talks, which are now coming to a close with the participation of 108 nations. This isolation cannot continue any longer.

4. In the last three years Iran's economic diplomacy has been aimed at getting close to three large international economic organizations, the World Bank, the IMF, and GATT. So far Tehran has normalized its relations with the first two organizations and it is now in the process of joining the third.

5. In announcing their alignment with GATT, those implementing the policy of "economic adjustment" are implicitly telling Europe and America that they intend to resist the pressure from opponents to reforms.

6. Finally, if the government of Iran accepts the fundamental principles of GATT, it will have to make many changes in its foreign trade policy. For example, at least in practice it will have to put aside what it says in Article 44 of the Constitution about government management of foreign trade. Thus once again the strategy of "economic adjustment" will be faced with a huge legal obstacle and the fundamental conflict between reforms and the framework of the government of the Islamic Republic will intensify.

* Ahmad Khomeyni Possible Presidency Rumored

93AS0448O London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Although no one has yet registered as a candidate in the second elections to president of the republic to be held next 21 Khordad [11 Jun], rumor has it that the lure of the job of president of the republic is getting stronger and stronger for Ahmad Khomeyni, especially since his sister Zahra Mostafavi (who is considered the most political person in the family), constantly encourages him to do this.

Although Zahra Mostafavi, who is president of the Women's Union of the Islamic Republic, prefers not to appear publicly very much, observers of the politics of the Islamic Republic regard her as a behind-the-scenes operative.

In the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990] when the first elections for president of the republic were held in accordance with the new Constitution after the death of Khomeini, Zahra Mostafavi encouraged her brother to register as a candidate, and even announced that she considered Ahmad more "worthy" than the rest to hold this position. In those days, however, Ahmad Khomeyni did not have enough confidence in himself to go onto the battlefield against Rafsanjani. Now today the situation has changed.

First of all, four years ago the split between Rafsanjani and Khamene'i had not become as wide as it is today, and Ahmad was afraid that if he registered he would not receive the leader's support. Second, at that time it could not have been known that in implementing his programs Rafsanjani would be faced with a succession of frustrations. Today, however, Ahmad is not only hoping to receive the leader's support for his becoming president, but Rafsanjani's frustrations have also encouraged him.

In the face of these suppositions and analyses, informed circles in Tehran point to another reality, and that is that due to the easy life he lives every day, Ahmad has become too lazy to be able to bear the burden of responsibility of the presidency of the Islamic Republic, which will be heavier in the future.

Whatever the truth may be in all this, it is certain that if Ahmad registers as a candidate for president of the republic, things will not go as easily for Hashemi-Rafsanjani as they did in the elections of the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990].

Some insightful thinkers have interpreted Rafsanjani's statement at a Friday prayer sermon that there are no hereditary positions in the Islamic Republic as an indirect attack against Ahmad Khomeyni, and they see that as his answer to the attacks that Ahmad makes in private circles against Rafsanjani and his policies.

* Paper on RESALAT Report on U.S. Forces

93AS0448C London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Strategic Mistake," the influential newspaper RESALAT writes that America has sent forces to Somalia not to provide humanitarian assistance but to stop the spread of Islam. RESALAT writes: "If America...succeeds in putting down the Islamic Party of Somalia and silences the waves of Islam in the Horn of Africa, then it will add to its agenda a limited attack on Abu Musa Island on the pretext of freeing occupied Arab land."

RESALAT writes: Through propaganda, America is trying to put Iran in the same position Iraq was in before the invasion of Kuwait. According to RESALAT, the spread of exaggerated rumors about Iran's arms purchases and the Islamic Republic's procurement of nuclear weapons is taking place "in this same regard."

RESALAT advises that although the struggle between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] over the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf must be solved through peaceful negotiations, "mediation by Syria, which has always benefited by conflict in the Gulf," must be avoided.

This newspaper writes that in the Iran-Iraq war Iran gave Syria free or very cheap oil (Syria's $1 billion debt to Iran has not yet been paid), and then it writes: "Is there any benefit to us in the continuation of this?" RESALAT concludes: "To whatever extent the Western nations have relations with the Zionists, to that extent they will be Iran's enemies."

Recently 'Abdul-Halim Khaddam, vice president of Syria, went to Tehran, apparently to mediate between Iran and the UAE in the dispute over the Persian Gulf islands. It appears from the article in RESALAT that this trip was not successful, although the final statement on the meeting, which was published simultaneously in Tehran and Damascus, spoke of the trip as being "successful."

* Official on Clandestine Inspection of Offices

93AS0448F London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqeq Damad, chief of the National Inspection Organization, announced that in

order to fight what he called "administrative corruption," he has prepared a plan that will be implemented "soon." Based on this plan, inspectors from this organization will be sent "secretly" to the government offices and if they see violations, they will report to the organization and then the organization council will be sent officially to that office.

He said: The intelligence sources of the national inspection organization are "popular forces, Islamic societies, the press and the Majles deputies." Mohaqeq Damad said: No official will be overlooked, but with all these reports of violations, to "protect the reputations of individuals" they will be sent confidentially to the judicial and executive officials.

The national inspector general regarded bribe taking as a "crime" and said: In the Documents and Registration Organization, in the customs offices, and in some municipalities, "important violations" have taken place, which are subject to "decisive encounters" by executive and judicial officials, but he gave no specific instances of these "important violations."

* 'Adeli on Distinction Between Economy, Ideology

93AS0448M London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank of Iran, in an unexpected reaction to the wave of protests from Khamene'i's supporters against the policy of "economic adjustment," said that "the laws of economy have nothing to do with ideology and intellectual fundamentals. If with regard to economic laws we do not discuss ideology, we will get somewhere, otherwise, we will get nowhere."

'Adeli, speaking at a gathering of students and professors at the College of Economic Sciences at 'Alameh Tabataba'i University, said in answer to a question from one of the professors at this college: "Here we are not talking about what ideologies various individuals follow, or whether economic assumptions conform to Islamic society or not. When a scientific discussion is held, we follow a series of laws. If we throw a stone into the air in any country, it will fall to the ground. Prices also have special laws, and they rise or fall under certain circumstances. Laws have nothing to do with an individual's point of view. In general, you would say that if I choose you and you choose me, it will not solve the problem."

Hezbollahi circles, in their angry reaction to 'Adeli, called his talk a "mockery of Islam." Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic, has recently harshly criticized the positions of supporters of the "free economy" in the name of defending the "Islamic economy." We note that the introduction to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic also speaks clearly about the "program of Islamic economy" and many of its economic principles are designed with the inspiration of this "program" (including Articles 3, 4, 43, 44, 48, and 49).

In his talk, without mentioning the name of Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the former prime minister of the Islamic Republic, 'Adeli harshly attacked his economic policies, and he presented a very negative accounting of the government's performance. 'Adeli said: At fixed 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] prices, the gross domestic product in 1356 [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978], with a population of 34 million, was 11,183 billion rials, while in the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 March 1989], with a population of 54 million, it declined to 9,234 billion. The amount of currency in circulation increased from 2,100 billion rials in the year 1356 to 16,000 billion rials in 1367. The budget deficit increased from 450 billion rials in 1356 to 2,100 billion rials in the year 1367.

The performance of the nation's economy was such that the relationship of revenues to payments in the year 1356 was 82 percent. It declined to 48.5 percent in 1367 and 51 percent of the budget was obtained through the deficit. In the year 1356 the nation's export revenues were $24 billion, in the year 1367 they declined to $10.7 billion. In other words, in the year 1356 every Iranian exported $700 in goods, and this figure dropped to less than $100 in the year 1367. The consumer price indicator also changed from 45 in the year 1356 to 300.

In answer to those who consider the war to be the cause of Iran's economic collapse in the 1360s, 'Adeli said: "During this period, despite the war, $50 billion was invested, which should have produced a return of at least $5 billion, yet because of price deviations it produced no return of any kind. If this money had been put into the bank, however, the country would have received a lot of profit."

In answer to the question, "were the policies of economic adjustment recommended by the IMF or the World Bank," 'Adeli said: "Concerning the foreign exchange rate, I announced on 17 Mehr 1368 [9 Oct 1989] that this rate was a mistake, and at that time I had not seen either the members of the World Bank or the IMF. Our relationship with these two institutions began in the year 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991]. It shows complete lack of confidence to say that there is no one to be found in society to say something reasonable. We are calling for a new model in the economic adjustment. In terms of economic experts, we are not so poor that we need to call on foreigners to answer our economic questions."

Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, also spoke at the second Conference on Planning and Development, which began its work on 15 Dey [5 Jan]. He said that speaking in generalities and presenting vague solutions is one of the country's "economic plagues." He announced that the foundation of the policy of economic adjustment is "the mechanism of the bazaar, allocating resources and reviving the profit-making system."

He added: "In our country they have accepted the bazaar, and the question is the level of its efficiency." While praising the South Korean economic model, Roghani said: "The experience of other countries shows

that the roots of the economic issues must be sought elsewhere than in the feelings of factional debates, and on the basis of scientific principles."

Recent guidance from the Plan and Budget Organization on the preparation of the Islamic Republic's second Five-Year Plan has met with very harsh criticism from the supporters of "Islamic economy."

* Regime Spending Earned Currency in Advance

93AS0448E London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The Islamic Republic's Oil and nonoil exports in the last three years were $18.4, $18.8, and $18.13 billion dollars, while the country's imports in the same years were $20.5, $14.7, and $28.5 billion, which says something about Iran's $13.5 billion foreign trade deficit. On the other hand, based on Central Bank statistics, from which the above figures are also drawn, at the beginning of the new government's tenure, foreign exchange commitments arising from government activity were $12 billion, and if to these figures are added the foreign credits for development programs in the first Five-Year Plan, the Islamic Republic's total foreign exchange commitments as of the end of the year 1370 [20 Mar 1992] are estimated at about $30 billion.

According to the experts, the effects of such heavy commitments will soon become clear, and since most of these commitments were not repaid on time, and since the allowed period of repayment for most of these commitments was two years, an important part of them will have to be paid back next year.

In the view of the experts, however, in view of the average oil exports in the current year and the $16-per-barrel price of oil, the oil revenues expected by the government do not seem realistic. Naturally, after repaying the commitments, which will come due next year, the Central Bank will not have much left with which to procure the nation's essential needs, much less keep the economy going naturally and continuing with the reconstruction. For these reasons, unfortunately Iran is forced to resort to credit transactions. That is, on the one hand it must pay back on time its commitments that have come due, and on the other hand it must make use of short-term credit. Banking and financial experts believe that if these matters are not handled with proper and calculated management and if the mistakes of the past are not corrected, this short-term credit will soon show undesirable political effects.

The experts also believe that the establishment of a uniform foreign exchange must be done as quickly as possible in Iran, because when a country's revenues and expenditures are this far apart it is forced to resort to credit to meet its requirements and it cannot continue allocating foreign exchange to the ministries, because this, apart from the budget problems, has very wide repercussions.

A former insider in the affairs of the Islamic Republic spoke to specialists on the damage caused by this method. He said: A year or two ago, in order to carry out development projects, the Petrochemical Company needed milgerd [as published], and since it argued that this material is not produced domestically, it imported it, and after they were stored at Bandar 'Abbas for some time, they were sent to the free market by the Ministry of Mines and Metals, and in one transaction they brought a 500-billion-toman profit.

This took place at a time when the Ministry of Industries had obtained a commitment from domestic producers (Gas Connections) to produce 1.5 million of the same items, and they put their products on the market with quality up to standard. However, the Ministry of Commerce Center for Procurement and Distribution continued to import the same products with cheap foreign exchange, importing 10 million of them, bringing the domestic factories to a deadend. While domestic consumption of this part is no more than 2 million, for five years the product was imported into the country with cheap foreign exchange.

* Official on Addicts, Cultural Invasion

93AS0448G London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Hasan Qashqavi, Majles deputy from Shahriyar, gave an interview a week ago in which he discussed the cultural invasion that has terrified the officials of the Tehran regime for some time. He said: The existence of 2.3 million addicts in Iran and 3 million videos and satellite antennas with the capability of receiving up to 30 destructive television networks in the future is a warning to all the nation's insiders that tomorrow will be too late and that starting today all the people must be awakened and put to work.

Qashqavi said that the roots of the cultural invasion are in noncultural elements such as general poverty, discrimination in government organizations, and unacceptable aggression, which cause the economic situation to affect the general culture. In the view of this Majles deputy, economic need and the existence of psychological complexes arising from the poverty, injustice, and discrimination in the Islamic Republic are among the most important reasons for human indifference. He added: Administrative corruption, discrimination, a tiresome paper-shuffling system, and worst of all the spread of the culture of bribery and theft in the administrative structure and the nation's executive management are important factors in the drift towards foreign culture. The deputy from Shahriyar continued: The weapon to use against satellites is the fact that the leader has prohibited their use.

* Population Explosion Threatening Country

93AS0448L London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] IRNA reports that Iran's population has grown from 35 million people in 1355 [21 Mar 1976-20 Mar 1977] to 58

million in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992]. This news agency adds that "a brief look at the rapid population increase in the country shows that assuming a striking decrease in births in the coming years, Iran's population will double in the next 25 years, and it will be 16 times larger, or about 900 million, in the next 90 years."

Ninety years ago Iran had a population of 10 million, and today its population is close to 60 million. In the last few years Iran has been struggling with unbridled population increases, and there is no doubt that without getting this threat under control, any attempt to put the country affairs in order will be futile.

Despite the great importance of population issues for Iran's future, the official authorities have not yet been able to agree on the official rate of population growth. The National Documents Organization puts Iran's population growth rate at 3.11 percent, the Iran Statistics Center puts it at 3.17 percent, and the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education announced that it is 2.7 percent.

In its first Five-Year Plan, the Islamic Republic set a population growth rate goal of 2.9 percent in 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994], but experts say that the rate will be no lower than 3.2 percent per year at least until the year 1375 [21 Mar 1996-20 Mar 1997].

Experts and scholars looking to the future already consider Iran to be a 100-million-person country. In his latest book published last year entitled *The World in the 21st Century*, [?Robert Frosart], a French economist and population expert, regards Iran as one of the world's future "gigantic" countries. The "gigantic" countries, in [Frosart]'s view, are those that will have populations of more than 100 million in the year 2020.

In its report, while explaining the dangers in population growth, IRNA says that "every year Iran imports 30 percent of the food it needs, and if the population growth rate continues, in the year 1385 [21 Mar 2006-20 Mar 2007] this figure will be 60 percent. Yet according to experts in the Forests and Pastures Organization, every year 1 million hectares of Iranian soil becomes desert."

This news agency adds that "the construction of 30,000 classrooms every year is no answer to the needs of the 1 million students who are added to the nation's population every year."

* Air Force Helicopter Crashes in Street

93AS0448B London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Last Sunday at 1145 a helicopter of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic, due to what was officially called a "technical defect," crashed in a Tehran street. Many people were killed and wounded and much damage was caused. IRNA reported that four people were killed, but it is said that the victims were several times that number.

The main damage was caused to the four-story building on which the helicopter crashed, but Tehran officials announced that that building was "empty" at the time of the crash. Ten other buildings in the Sancheh vicinity in the "Air Force" neighborhood (east Tehran) were ruined. IRNA's correspondent reports that those killed were the pilot and three other helicopter passengers.

The Qel'eh Morghi Airport, which is near the site of the crash, is used only for military purposes.

* Nude Picture Forces Shutdown of Paper

93AS0448I London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] The printing of a picture that was described as "half nude" has caused the shutdown of a magazine published in Rasht called AVA-YE SHOMAL. The Gilan Province Office of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced that the shutdown took place at the request of the publication's manager himself, because the person responsible for the movie page printed this picture on his own initiative without the knowledge of the manager. The official in charge of the page was also fired for "carelessness."

The picture was associated with the popular film "Basic Instinct," and it shows a half-nude woman trimming the beard of a male actor in the film.

Pakistan

House Adopts Kashmir Resolution, Hears Tank Plan

BK0402084093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The National Assembly today unanimously passed a resolution condemning unprecedented wave of repression, massive violation of human rights, firing, arson, and terrorism let loose by Indian forces against the innocent people in held Kashmir. The resolution was moved by the minister for parliamentary affairs, Chaudhary Amir Hussian. It reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people struggling for the achievement of their right to self-determination in line with UN resolutions and commitment given by India to honor this inalienable right of Kashmiris. The passage of the resolution jointly prepared by the Treasury and all other parties in the house coincides with the observation of the day of solidarity with Kashmiris throughout the country tomorrow.

The parliamentary secretary for finance, Rana Tanvir Hussian, assured the house that the government is not raising the charges of gas, electricity, telephone, and railways. He was speaking on a call-attention notice by Haji Mohammad Javed Iqbal Cheema and Raja Mohammad Zahir Khan of Jamaat-i-Islami and Mr. Gul Hameed Khan Rokari of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] regarding reports of increase in the rates of gas and electricity.

Earlier, the minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, told the house that the government intends to procure about 320 T-72 tanks for the army. He said the tank being produced in Poland is of Russian original design. He said in addition to the tanks, spares, (?port) and maintenance capability, and transfer of technology are also being acquired. He said negotiations are yet to be finalized. He told the assembly that two Polish T-72 tanks were tested in Pakistan during last summer. The house will now meet on Sunday afternoon.

Nuclear Scientist Qadeer Khan Interviewed

BK0202155393 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Jan 93 pp 28, 29, 87

[Interview with nuclear scientist Dr. Qadeer Khan by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [NAWA-I-WAQT] The Kahuta nuclear plant is being talked about around the world. This project has been attributed to you. Would you tell us for what peaceful purposes the plant was established?

[Khan] This is an era of technology, and nuclear technology is most essential in today's world. The primary objective of the Kahuta plant is to conduct nuclear research. We can utilize this technology for numerous needs. But our enemies feel that the plant has only one objective. I feel this is because of their guilty conscience. They themselves stole a technology and then used it for producing nuclear weapons instead of using it for their people's welfare. In fact, people with a limited perception have a limited vision as well.

This plant is being used only for enriching uranium, and the enriched uranium is then used as fuel in nuclear reactors. The enriched uranium will be utilized as fuel in the 300-megawatt nuclear power plant which we are acquiring from China. This will not only ensure our self-reliance, but will save us considerable foreign exchange.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] You have succeeded in breaking the Western monopoly in enriching uranium. Would you tell us about this achievement?

[Khan] Basically, all developed countries have identical views. They do not want to see the developing nations of the Third World to acquire advanced expertise and technology. The main reason for this is that they want to maintain their exclusive control in order to keep developing and other countries under their domination and to maintain their own predominance. Their attitude toward Muslim countries is particularly tough.

Enrichment of uranium is a very complicated scientific process under which the strength of raw uranium is enhanced several thousand times. We have achieved expertise in this field despite our inadequate facilities and very meager investment.

Centrifuge technology is the world's most modern technology and by acquiring this technology we have been able today to stand in the row of developed countries which have expertise in this field. Only five countries in Europe have this expertise, while Japan has achieved some success in this field only at the laboratory level, and India is like an elementary school child in this matter.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] A false law suit was filed against you in the Netherlands. By the grace of God, you successfully overcame it. How you did you feel when you were acquitted?

[Khan] As has been proved at the High Court, the case was based on malice. I was aware of the fact that I did not commit any unethical act or crime, and had complete faith in God. Therefore, God helped me to overcome the difficulty and the enemy was badly beaten. Dutch lawyers Dr. Russel and the late Dr. Dean Driver, and Pakistani lawyers S.M. Zafar and M.B. Zaman shattered the government allegations. The attorney general of Netherlands told my lawyers that he would not have recommended taking the case to the court if his opinion had been sought by the government. There was no substance in the case. The Netherlands Government could have appealed at the Supreme Court if it wished. But displaying prudence and taking the reality into consideration, it decided not to appeal. Thus, the case was dismissed in my favor. In the meantime, I enjoyed the blessings of the entire nation, and I thank everyone for this.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] You have done vast research work on missiles. Missiles produced at your plant have also been displayed on various occasions. Would you tell us something in detail about it?

[Khan] There have been a number changes in all aspects of life. The science of warfare too is much different from what it was during World War I. Air warfare now assumes the greatest importance in a contemporary war. We have done much work in this field too, and by the blessing of God we have achieved some success as well. The Pakistani Armed Forces' capability to counter the enemy has been enhanced due to our achievement in the field of missile production. We made considerable progress due to the wholehearted assistance by the late Army Chief General Asif Nawaz. God willing, we will also work for the Air Force and the Navy.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Certain scientific organizations are working under your supervision. Have you offered any proposals for the development of science in the country?

[Khan] Yes, I have suggested possible measures to the government from time to time for the advancement of science. The Ishaq Khan Technical Institute is an example of this. Science and technology are very important in this era and any nation which pushes this fact to the back burner now will not have any standing in the 21st century. Our survival lies in education, especially that of the younger generation, as it is said that the future

of any nation lies in the education of its younger generation. Our prophet said hundreds of years ago that even if one has to go to China to acquire knowledge, one should do so. A very bold step is needed to improve our educational system, or we will not survive as an independent nation.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Pakistan has repeatedly declared that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Why is it that the leaders of several countries are not believing it without seeing it with their own eyes?

[Khan] We still say that all our programs are only for peaceful purposes and are ready to throw them open to the world for inspection. But one-sided restrictions are prejudicial to our national honor. If India opens its installations for international inspection today, then we will also not make any delay in doing so, because we do not possess anything that may prove any inconsistency in our word and deed. The president and the prime minister have already proposed to the world that if the Indian prime minister agrees to participate in the five-nation conference, then considerable progress can be made in this connection.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Dr. Qadeer Khan, how did you feel when the Kahuta plant was named after you?

[Khan] My opinion was not sought. The late President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq proposed this name on 1 May 1981 as a token of recognition of our team's untiring efforts, and for this I am grateful to him and to the nation. It is a very great honor for me.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] For how many more years do you want to remain involved in this field? Do you think that you have accomplished your life's mission and now you should retire?

[Khan] As I said earlier, I am a student of science and the search for knowledge never ends. But I can do my work even after my retirement, and, God willing, will do so. My association with the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering in Topi is an expression of my thirst for knowledge, and in my association with the students and teachers of that institute I will continue to quench that thirst.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Did you ever think of joining politics after your retirement? Is politics ever discussed in your house?

[Khan] Science and politics are two different subjects and I am a student of science. My retirement has nothing to do with ending the search for knowledge. It is an unending journey.

As for the national politics, there are already so many politicians in the country. It is the duty of the people to elect and send only those people to the assemblies, who are educated and who sincerely care for the country and the nation. The country needs peace and tranquillity. We have lagged far behind as compared to other countries. It is the need of the hour that we devote all our attention to the development of the country and the prosperity of the people. Pray to God for the success of our government's efforts, so that we may also be able to stand in the ranks of developed nations.

At home, we generally exchange views on domestic and foreign affairs, but I am not interested in joining politics.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] At one time, you were a somewhat mysterious personality but later you came into public view. Your opponents give the impression that you deliberately want to remain at the center of attention in the press. Do you agree?

[Khan] My mysteriousness is a mere figment of people's imagination. The sensation regarding my character was created after the so-called interview by Kuldip Nayyar. In the initial stage of my work, I had to do so many things and there was no scope for any publicity at all. Then a time came when it was necessary to inform the world of the real facts about our country's honor and power in the face of the extraordinary campaign launched by India and Western countries. Therefore, my coming into the view of the press was not a political move, and, usually, I like to keep in touch and exchange views with my countrymen. After all, I am a Pakistani, a human being, and like other normal human beings, I also enhance my knowledge by exchanging views with you all.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Did you ever realize that any lobby in the country was working to malign your personality?

[Khan] This thing started soon after I arrived in Pakistan. Some people in the country tried every tactic to keep me from succeeding. It must be remembered that great courage is required to do great jobs. If you are steadfast in your determination, then these major obstacles also prove to be walls of sand. So long as I have the blessings of God and sympathy and cooperation of the nation, I shall continue to serve the country and the nation with even more courage and dedication.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Dr. Qadeer, you are a very cautious person. Why is it that "certain elements" attribute different things to you?

[Khan] You can stop the hand of a beggar but cannot stop the tongue of a speaker. Now that every child of Pakistan knows me, these unnecessary things do not affect me. As regards attributing certain things to me, you people do not spare even the president and the prime minister. To discover a small story one day and to present it in an exaggerated manner only after hearing something from someone does not benefit the journalist nor does it do any good to the country. My personality is such that it greatly helps in creating hot news by attributing certain things to me. The people have great faith in me and they love me. As soon as they see my name, they purchase the newspaper immediately. This is not called honest journalism.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] You started working in Europe. How did you come to Pakistan? How did you establish contacts with the late Bhutto and how was your return to the homeland arranged?

[Khan] I was in Europe in connection with my education and my work. I gained valuable experience during my stay there. I had the desire to return home from the first day. I came back and started work here as soon as I had the opportunity. It was during the tenure of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. I met the late Bhutto and apprised him of my education and experience. He was an intelligent politician. He consulted his colleagues—Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Agha Shahi, Aziz Ahmad, and A.G.N. Qazi—and entrusted me with this responsibility. Although the work was started during the administration of Bhutto, it was accelerated and completed during the administration of General Mohammad Ziaul Haq under the supervision of Ishaq Khan.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Dr. Khan, you had the opportunity to come in close contact with Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Gen. Ziaul Haq, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Mohammad Khan Junejo, Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif. What do you think of them?

[Khan] The nature of our work is such that all of them appreciated this work and extended every possible assistance in accelerating this job. The work which began during the government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto continued during the government of the late President Ziaul Haq despite all the external pressure. And President Ghulam Ishaq has always been in the forefront in carrying the work forward. I enjoyed the cooperation of both the past and present governments.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Journalists at various functions ask you questions on various matters. Remarks you really did not make are also sometimes attributed to you. Why it is so, and what do you feel after reading these things in newspapers?

[Khan] There are some conventions in every aspect of life. Some of our journalists are not aware of the sanctity of their profession and they prefer to further their own interests ahead of the country's. They do not know what harm they do to the country by publishing such headlines in one day. Foreign journalists and lobbies create unjustified suspicion about our government by citing such reports and exerting pressure. I request these journalists, for God's sake and in the interest of the country, to refrain from attempting to gain such temporary publicity and becoming a tool in another's hand.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] Certain elements in the country talk about the insecurity of the Kahuta plant. After all, who are they serving? Are there really some inadequacies in the security of the Kahuta plant?

[Khan] The Government of Pakistan has displayed a complete sense of responsibility for the security of the Kahuta plant and all possible steps have been taken in this regard. Therefore, I do not see any deficiency in this regard. Exaggerating minor events cannot be construed to mean that the Kahuta plant is insecure. We have full faith in our indigenous resources and have made all efforts to protect the Kahuta plant. Moreover, God Almighty is our best protector.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] This is something old, but people are confused about an incident when an Indian journalist did not introduce himself when he met you and that he was brought to meet you without your permission.

[Khan] I think it has become clear to the people what in fact was behind this alleged interview. Moshahed Hussain brought Kuldip Nayyar to me. He introduced Kuldip Nayyar as a personal friend. It has already been clarified how Kuldip Nayyar tried to create a sensation by taking advantage of this opportunity. So it is merely a waste of time to say something about it. He tried to reap benefit for his country and harm us by this fictitious interview, but he failed. He fully displayed his Hindu mentality by responding in such a manner to Moshahed Hussain and my hospitality and made us understand how important it was to establish Pakistan for our existence and security.

[NAWA-I-WAQT] The Western media, especially India, Israel and the Jewish lobby in the West, are engaged in sinister propaganda about Pakistan's nuclear program. Have you thought of any countermeasure for this?

[Khan] The sinister foreign propaganda about our peaceful nuclear program is a conspiracy against Pakistan and the Islamic world. Actually, they do not like us to prosper. Why else is the Western media not uttering a single word about Israel and South Africa, who are also advanced in this field? It is the job of you journalists to devise a countermeasure against this political propaganda. You should present the viewpoint of the Government of Pakistan and publicize globally the proposal made by the prime minister.

Daily Views India's Procurement of Rocket Engines

BK0302115593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian Defiance"]

[Text] Having failed to stop India from acquiring cryogenic rocket engines from Russia through a two-year sanctions regime announced May last, the US has warned it might impose permanent sanctions on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISPRO) and the Russian Space Agency, Glavkosmos. But, as usual, India has refused to restrain its militaristic designs. The most worrying thing about the India-Russia deal is that the cryogenic engine technology is not good only for peaceful space research programmes, as the Indians would have us believe, it can also be used to develop such lethal weapons of war as intercontinential ballistic missiles. Given India's track record of defying world opinion always and in every area, be it in the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or gross

human rights violations in Kashmir, one could easily predict, despite all the warnings, it would go ahead with its acquisition of missile technology with the technology without bothering about the security hazards for others involved. India's Minister for Science and Technology has already been boasting that the US warning would not affect the country's plans, and that its first cryogenic engine fitted vehicle will be launched as per schedule in 1995.

It is unfortunate indeed that while countries like the US and Russia are making huge reductions in their strategic as well as tactical weapons arsenals, poor developing nations such as India should be making big strides toward acquiring ever deadlier weapons and refusing to sign the NPT, thus putting pressure on Pakistan to divert some of its development efforts to military hardware. Lamentable as it is, the way India has gone on building its armaments industries leaves little choice for Pakistan but to prepare its own defence response. The government's recently announced decision of extending its privatisation policy to the defence industries is a good step that, if implemented thoughtfully can help a great deal in meeting the new Indian challenges. Nonetheless, it needs to guard against those vested interests which have started to lobby in favour of making defence purchases in the East European markets instead of expending and building local industries in order to attain increased self-sufficiency in arms manufacturing. In addition to a clearly formulated defence industries privatisation policy, it must also look around for meaningful defence production partnerships with its friends like China so as to effectively counter India's militaristic ambitions.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Says Outside Forces Fanning Ethnic Unrest

BK0402113993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Colombo, Feb 4 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Thursday accused "outside forces" of trying to destroy communal harmony and appealed for unity in his ethnically divided island republic.

In a live television and radio broadcast to mark the country's 45th anniversary of independence from Britain, Premadasa said that "germs of disunity and dissension" gave way to conflicts and threatened freedom.

"Our sovereignty and territorial integrity come under threat. Outside forces attempt to destroy intercommunal coexistence through bribes to a handful of local traitors," Premadasa said without naming any individual.

Premadasa has in the past repeatedly accused a group of ruling party dissidents, who later formed their own political party, of trying to forment trouble with the assistance of the Israeli secret service, Mosad.

In a traditionally colourful ceremony here, Premadasa said that Sri Lanka won its freedom "through a combined strength of all communities" and that it was through unity that freedom could be defended.

He said that many of the injustices that caused disunity had been resolved but the ethnic conflict in the northeast, where government troops were battling Tamil guerrillas, remained a running sore.

"Now we are left with only one outstanding problem. That is the northeast problem. It is an extremely complex issue. It has to be resolved through consensus among all parties," Premadasa said.

"The people are anxious to see an early solution to the northeast problem. Valuable lives are lost to the extent it is delayed. Public property gets destroyed. Much wealth is lost," Premadasa said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is leading a guerrilla campaign for independence in the northeast for minority Tamils who allege discrimination by majority Sinhalese.

LTTE Boatyard, Small Flotilla Destroyed

BK0402122593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0544 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Colombo, Feb 4 (AFP)—The air force bombed and destroyed a Tamil guerrilla boatyard in northern Sri Lanka while the navy sank a small flotilla of rebel speed boats, a military spokesman here said Thursday [4 Febraury].

Navy craft fired and sank six fibre glass boats of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and captured two more in the restricted Jaffna lagoon Tuesday night, the spokesman said.

He said guerrilla casualties were not immediately clear. The navy action came two days after the airforce attacked an LTTE boatyard located in the peninsula-end of the Jaffna lagoon.

"Aircraft took the LTTE boatyard with the objective of destroying some Tiger boats. We have no information about terrorist casualties," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, security forces across Sri lanka's embattled northeast remained on maximum alert amid fears that the LTTE may carry out attacks against them to mark the country's 45th anniversary of independence Thursday.

Tigers have in the past marked Sri Lanka's freedom day with stepped up strikes against security forces. The LTTE is battling for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast.